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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian,
Presbyterian, and other

Non-subscribing or Kindred Congregations.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE, ETC.

Presented at Sheffield,

April, 1926.

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1926

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 Lay Preachers' Union.—Mr. W. R. BARCLAY.

**Appointed during the Triennial Term.*

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The National Conference was initiated by the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1881, on the lines of a similar organisation in the United States, its intention being to bring together for purposes of consultation and mutual stimulus representatives of all the Churches in this country which stand for freedom in matters of faith.

Beginning with meetings at Liverpool in 1882, the Conference met triennially until the War broke the sequence, but has resumed the regular sequence since. The places of successive meetings have been Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, London, Manchester, Sheffield, Leicester, Liverpool, Oxford, Bolton, Birmingham, London, Leeds, Manchester (1923).

In 1898 the Committee of the Conference, being constituted on a representative basis, was "instructed to hold regular meetings to consult, and, when considered advisable, to take action in matters affecting the well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies which form the Conference"; and in various ways this has been done, to the advantage of our Churches generally, and with the endorsement of the Conference itself at its General Meetings.

The Triennial Meetings themselves have been a great stimulus and encouragement to the hundreds of Delegates and Ministers who attended them, lessening the feeling of isolation, and sending them back to their work with a greater sense of fellowship and communion.

The SUSTENTATION FUND to support Congregations in paying the Stipends of Ministers, which has now a capital of over £83,000, was founded at the first meeting in 1882, and was greatly enlarged as the result of the meeting in 1912.

The MINISTERS' PENSION AND INSURANCE FUND, which also administers the Philip Holt Fund and the Education Fund for assisting the children of Ministers, was established by the 1902 Conference, and strengthened by a subsequent appeal, and has now a total capital of £46,560.

The SUBVENTION FUND, raised along with the Education Fund in 1920, is expending a sum of over £10,000 over a series of years to improve the Stipends of Ministers which were found inadequate owing to conditions during and since the war.

The Conference through its representatives participates in the annual REVISION OF THE LIST OF MINISTERS whose names appear in the Year Book, thereby securing for the Churches on its roll a record of those Ministers whose credentials and qualifications have entitled them to recognition.

The Conference has established the six ADVISORY COMMITTEES, covering the whole of Great Britain. They guard the Churches against the entrance of undesirable persons into the Ministry, issue certificates to Ministers coming from other denominations when their credentials have been examined and approved, to Lay Workers fitted to take charge of the smaller Churches, and to Lay Ministers suitable to take the course of reading and examination prescribed by the Conference with a view to acceptance as Ministers if the conditions of their probation are fulfilled.

The MINISTERIAL-SETTLEMENTS BOARD, which was the outcome of the Settlements Bureau inaugurated and carried on by the Ministerial Fellowship, was also established by the Conference as a means of communication between Churches without a Pastor and Ministers desiring a fresh charge. The need for this Board is shown by the frequency with which its help is sought.

The COMMITTEE ON THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS, also founded by the Conference, fulfils a useful function in stimulating the desire to enter the Ministry through appeals made in various directions, in regulating the course of study for Lay Ministers, and in the conduct of the necessary examinations.

The GUILDS UNION and the SOCIAL SERVICE UNION were the direct outcome of suggestions and discussions at the Conference.

The ANNUAL RECOGNITION SERVICE for the New Ministers who have entered into the work of the Churches was established by the Conference, and supplies the denominational welcome which was never quite met by the local Induction Services, excellent as they are.

During the last Triennial period the Conference Committee has been engaged in the consideration of various questions of interest to our Churches, which were referred to it by the Conference of 1923, such as the position and

future of Domestic Missions and the needs of the poorer Retired Ministers and Widows of Ministers; and of others which have since arisen, notably the provision of a Common Hymn Book. Details will be found in the Report.

The National Conference has an honourable record, and merits the loyal support of all our Churches, every one of which should be on its subscription roll.

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS have been held at the following places :—

1882—Liverpool.	1903—Liverpool.
1885—Birmingham.	1906—Oxford.
1888—Leeds.	1909—Bolton.
1891—London.	1912—Birmingham.
1894—Manchester.	1915—London.
1897—Sheffield.	1920—Leeds.
1900—Leicester.	1923—Manchester.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE, 1923...1926.

The Conference Committee has steadily pursued its work during the past three years in the interest of the associated Churches, and has good reason to look back with satisfaction on progress made and good results obtained in several directions.

The **Committee on the Supply of Ministers** has revised the course of reading and examination for those who are unable to enter College, but desire to become recognised Ministers. During the past three years five candidates have completed their examinations and received recognition, and there has been welcome testimony to the sound work which they have done in the Congregations to which they have ministered in their probationary years. Four names have for various reasons been removed from the list. Two candidates will take their final examination this year, and at least three others their first examination. In addition to these, two men are in regular attendance at special classes at the Unitarian College, Manchester, and there is one Student-Minister taking the regular course at the same College.

Reference was made in the last Report to the calling of a **Conference of Advisory Committees** to deal with various questions which had arisen. The conclusions then referred to as having been remitted to the separate Advisory Committees for consideration were eventually, with some modifications, adopted by all the Advisory Committees and by your Committee, and in February, 1924, a revision of the Constitution and Duties of Advisory Committees was issued to the Churches and Associations. One point in the new regulations may be noted. Those candidates for the regular ministry who take the Conference course of reading and examination, and who were formerly known as *Lay Workers*, are now described as *Lay Ministers*, the term *Lay Workers* being retained only for those who are in charge of Congregations or Missions, but who do not take the Conference Course with a view to ultimate recognition as Ministers. Five candidates have been placed on the list of Lay Workers. So far, the new arrangements, which have been in operation now for two years, have worked well.

The **Ministerial Settlements Board** has had fifty-two Congregations on its list during the triennial period. For forty-one of these there have been settlements, sixteen of which have been in accordance with recommendations from the Board. This is a larger proportion than during the preceding three years. There have been fifty Ministers on the standing list for longer or shorter periods. Of these, two have died, four have crossed the Atlantic, thirty have secured settlements, and four have for personal reasons withdrawn their names. Much good is done that cannot be tabulated.

At the Manchester meeting the condition of our **Domestic Missions** was referred to your Committee

for consideration. A Sub-Committee was appointed, which interviewed Domestic Missionaries from various parts of the country, and presented a careful report, subsequently published in full in "The Inquirer" and "The Christian Life." How far any of the suggestions contained therein have had practical effect it is difficult to say.

The **Midland Provincial Assembly**, to the proposed formation of which reference was made in the last Report, was definitely established shortly after the last Conference, and is doing good service in binding the constituent districts together. An amalgamation has been brought about between the London District Unitarian Society and the London and South Eastern Counties Provincial Assembly.

On the suggestion of the President, it was decided to institute an **Annual Service of Recognition** for those who had recently entered our Ministry, whether as trained in our Colleges, or as candidates under the Conference Scheme of Reading and Examination, or as Ministers from other denominations. Three of these Services have so far been held, viz., at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, in February, 1924, Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, in October, 1924, and the Old Meeting Church, Birmingham, in September, 1925. At these three Services, twenty-one Ministers in all were welcomed into our fellowship by the President. Warm testimony has been given to the value and impressiveness of the Services, both by those thus welcomed and by laymen and other Ministers who were present.

A generous gift of £100 by an anonymous donor has enabled your President to carry out a scheme of **Visitation of the Churches**, which has largely stimulated local interest in our faith and has had other happy results. The President has paid visits to over 60 Churches.

It will be remembered that the question of **Aged Ministers and the Widows of Ministers** was discussed at the last Conference, and the Committee were instructed to consider and consult and take any needful action to improve the financial condition and outlook in this respect. A conference of representatives of the various organisations interested in this subject was therefore convened. As a result of this and careful study of the subject by a Sub-Committee, two things became evident: (1) that the Temporary Funds at present being administered by the Ministerial Fellowship for the relief of Aged Ministers and the Widows of Ministers needed considerable strengthening, so as to cover necessities that may arise during the next fifteen or twenty years; and (2) that, to prevent the possibility of such difficulties occurring in the same way again, it was necessary to begin with the younger Ministers, and make it incumbent upon them to make adequate provision by means of Insurance for their own later years as well as for their Widows or other dependents in case of death. This latter question was naturally felt to be within the province of the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund, which has done such excellent service in this direction. But it was strongly felt that the Congregations themselves, who receive the benefit of the Ministers' services when they are in the full tide of life should realise their responsibility to help them to make provision for the future.

A system of **Contributory Insurance** was devised and carefully worked out, by means of which the Minister, his Congregation, and the Pension Fund would between them meet premiums sufficient to provide a minimum rate of annuity for the Minister and a minimum amount payable at his death for the benefit of his Widow or other dependents. The Scheme, when elaborated, met with the unanimous approval of the Conference Com-

mittee, the Pension Fund Board and the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and was by them commended, first to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association and the Sustentation Fund, and subsequently, having met with their endorsement, to the Provincial Assemblies and District Associations. Without an exception all these agencies signified their hearty support—an indication of a greater spirit of unity in the denomination than it sometimes gets credit for. The Scheme was therefore officially launched in July, and it is now vigorously at work, having been taken up warmly by the Ministers and their Congregations. Without exception, those Congregations which have been asked have accepted the principle of Contributory Insurance. In a few cases the poverty of a Congregation has prevented the suggestion being made to it. In others the age of the Minister was beyond the possibility of insurance. It will, of course, take several years before the system becomes universally operative, but that it will be so eventually cannot be doubted. It will be reported to the Conference how many of the Ministers and Congregations have already been registered under the Scheme.

The inauguration of such a comprehensive Scheme, however, meant an impossible drain upon the resources of the Pension Fund, whose income in any case is inadequate to meet the increasing claims made upon it. This fact was taken into account from the outset, and it was realised that a strong **Appeal for a Contributory Insurance Fund** would have to be made to the Conference. So sure were your Committee and the colleagues called into counsel that they were expressing the mind of the Churches generally and could count on a generous response, that they had no hesitation in recommending that *Fifteen Thousand Pounds* should be asked for, of which Ten Thousand is

needed to strengthen the capital of the Pension Fund to enable it to give the required assistance to the Contributory Scheme, and Five Thousand to be added to the Temporary Funds for the relief of Aged Ministers and the Widows of Ministers, thus enabling the Ministerial Fellowship to administer them for the next twenty years or so. With confidence your Committee commend this Appeal to the Conference and to the members of the various Churches, and they cannot doubt its success. When this New Fund is raised and applied, all cause for anxiety about the Aged Ministers and Widows will have been removed.

Much consideration has been given to the subject of a **Denominational Hymnbook**, and your Committee rejoice that definite steps have now been taken in that direction. The matter came up in the first instance on a request being received from Dr. Gow, on behalf of the proprietors of the "New Hymnal," that the Conference would take the book over. It was felt, however, that it was not desirable that, as things are, the Conference should publish a Hymnbook of its own to be in seeming rivalry with any other, but that this was a great opportunity for consultation with the proprietors of the "New Hymnal" and the Executive of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association who publish the "Essex Hall Hymnal," to consider whether the time had not come for these two books to be combined, together with any additions that might be deemed suitable, so that a single Hymnbook could be commended to the denomination for general use. This idea, which emanated from the President, was taken up warmly by all concerned, and, after various conferences a Joint Committee was appointed to prepare a New Hymnbook to take the place of these two which have hitherto divided the field pretty equally between them. That Committee has been busily at work with general approval and support,

and it is hoped that before long it may be able to produce and issue such a volume of sacred song as shall commend itself to the Churches generally and become a prized denominational asset and a bond of union of permanent effect.

Almost immediately after the celebration of the Centenary of the **British and Foreign Unitarian Association**, in whose rejoicings the Conference Committee naturally shared, partly because of the historical connection between the two and mainly because of vital sympathies which bind so many of our friends to both institutions, an approach was made to your Committee by the Executive of the Association which has led to interesting and hopeful results. It seemed a natural sequence of the agreement about the New Hymnbook. The Association felt that a great deal might be achieved by improved organisation, and especially by closer co-operation and co-ordination between the Association and the Conference, and invited your Committee to give the question their earnest and sympathetic consideration. Your Committee felt that such an appeal should meet with a warm response, as there is so much that is common between the two bodies, though they have their distinctive provinces, and unless they work in close harmony and touch with each other, unnecessary duplication and loss of force must result. In this spirit, therefore, cordial response was made to the overture, and after a little negotiation a Joint Committee was constituted consisting of four representatives each from the Association and the Conference.

The Conference Committee laid down the following principles, which it requested its representatives to bear in mind in considering possibilities of the kind :—

1. The National Conference is established wholly on a representative basis, and any development would have to start from that fact.

2. The representation is of Congregations and Societies, agreed on the promotion of Religion without Credal Tests.

3. The principle of the Open Trust is the common ground on which has been founded the union of our Congregations in a Fellowship of Free Churches.

4. No Theological Implications have ever been regarded as a condition of attachment to the Conference; and this Freedom of Faith, for the Churches themselves and the members who constitute them, can in no way be permitted to be impaired.

The Joint Committee met and in frank and friendly way considered several of the problems in which both institutions were equally interested. As a consequence, certain recommendations for the simplification and improvement of our machinery were unanimously made. These have been approved by both Committees, and will be laid for confirmation before the Conference. It is the feeling of your Committee that everything possible should be done to maintain the friendliest relations between the two bodies, both of which are meeting real needs felt by our people and valuable for the cause of Free Religion. Where it is practicable to join hands, it should be done; where co-operation will bring added strength it should be forthcoming; and where duplication is weakening our forces it should be cut away. Your Committee look forward hopefully to a continuance of the good feeling, which is now so much in evidence in the ranks of both organisations.

There has been one addition to the **Roll of Churches** on the list by the acception of the Bible Christian Church at Salford, Manchester. It is good

to record that the work at Willert Street, Manchester, has been maintained by an active local Committee in connection with the District Association of Churches. New Churches have been erected at Cambridge and at Golders Green, London, the latter taking the place of the Iron Church at Child's Hill.

The Report from the **Women's League** is encouraging, as usual. The Secretary, Miss Brooke Herford, says: "Quietly, but surely, the Women's League grows and strengthens. The last three years show development in all its departments. There are now 151 Branches and 10 District Societies. The Fellowship continues to keep in touch with isolated Unitarian women: two hundred are now being written to by their special helpers, and the carefully planned organisation for travellers works smoothly, proving of great benefit to girls and women going overseas. There has been a widespread desire for greater devotional expression at the meetings. To encourage and help this, a Service Book and League Hymn have been printed, also some of the addresses given at the Quarterly District Services. Co-operation between the British League and the American Alliance of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women in Fellowship work is maintained by means of 'Friendly Links' correspondence, and the League keeps in touch with women of the new Liberal Religious Movements in foreign countries. As an outcome of the practical work done in furtherance of the objects of the League of Nations Union, the Women's League is represented by a member of its Committee on the Women's Advisory Council of that body."

"It is to be regretted," writes Mr. Ronald Bartram, the Secretary, "that the progress of the **Men's** (late **Laymen's**) **League** reported in the last Report has not been continued. There are some

Chapters, particularly in the North, that are strong and healthy, but in London and the rest of England it does not seem to have caught the imagination of the men of our Churches. Undoubtedly the League, when founded, was based on the American plan, but its originators failed to realise the different conditions that exist in this country. Attempts have been made to popularise the movement, both by reducing the subscription to as small a sum as possible consistent with efficient management and by sending a booklet explanatory of the League's aims and ideals to the men of our Churches, but so far the response has not been satisfactory." Your Committee shares deeply in the regret expressed, and earnestly hopes that a revival of interest in this important work may soon show itself.

Three years ago, reference was made to a suggestion for the formation of a Third League, and it is good to report that the project has taken shape in a **Fellowship of Youth**, which arose in response to the need for a society of young people interested in Free Religious Ideals, and more especially for a representative body to co-operate with Youth Societies abroad. It was first decided to form such a Society in April, 1923, at a meeting of young people from various parts of the country, held at Essex Hall. In Easter week, 1925, a successful conference took place at Oxford, where the Fellowship was constitutionally established. The following year was spent in forming branches and finding out ways in which the Fellowship could best help its members and others. A further conference was held at Repton on "The Drama in Relation to Life." The subject for the 1925-6 Conference at Oxford is "Social Science and Education." There are at present seven branches of the Fellowship,—in Birmingham, Cambridge, Cheshire, Leeds, Liverpool, London, and South Shields. The membership is about 200. The Fellowship is affiliated to the

Leiden International Bureau and to the British Federation of Youth, which will support the proposed World Federation of Youth for Peace. The Hon. Secretary of the Fellowship is Miss H. Roscoe, 58, Redington Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

Further ground for encouragement on lines similar to those indicated above is to be found in the **Harvest of Youth**. In February, 1925, the Editor of "The Inquirer" suggested that, as befitting the Centenary Year of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association an effort should be made by Ministers and Congregations to enrol, as declared adherents of their Churches, as many young people as possible of the ages from 16 to 25, inclusive. In response to this suggestion an effort was made in 143 Churches, with the result that over 2,300 young persons of the ages indicated were enrolled. A Roll of their names has been published, arranged under their respective Churches, as a record of thanksgiving for all those who in the past Century dedicated their lives to Religion in Liberty, and as a pledge of future service to the same great Cause.

A further cause for congratulation is the effective work carried on by the **National Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Lay Preachers** and its various branches. Mr. A. G. Tarrant, the Secretary, writes as follows: "The growing use of Lay Preachers throughout the denomination has led to increasing efforts being made, both by Lay Preachers themselves, and by their district and national organisations, to equip them more fully for their work. Thus the Correspondence Tuition Scheme of the National Union has been carried on very successfully, and sincere thanks are due to the able tutors who have freely given their services in this connection. At Easter, 1925, a very successful Holiday School was held at Manchester College, Oxford, the use of which was kindly granted for this

purpose. This was felt to be such a valuable addition to the work of the National Union that it is hoped to repeat it at suitable intervals in the future. It is difficult to give exact figures as to the number of services now being conducted in the denomination by Laymen, but it is probable that that number per annum is not less than one thousand. This indicates clearly that the Lay Preacher movement is filling a not inconsiderable place in the life of our Churches, and must be reckoned among the regular denominational activities."

The **Pioneer Preachers** at the Hostel, 23, Highbury Place, N. 5, are four in number. They carry on their work of preparation for the active ministry under the care of a Committee, whose Chairman is Mr. H. G. Chancellor. The President of the body of subscribers is Lt.-Col. S. Chatfeild-Clarke. Four Churches in the London District Provincial Assembly's area are being served and the Pioneers are in close touch with the District Minister. Nineteen Pioneers have passed an approved period at the Hostel, and of these fifteen are serving in the ministry of our group of Churches, two in the Anglican Church, and two are at college. The officers and managers find their resources taxed to finance the movement, but they are convinced that their efforts have been justified by the men who have passed out into the ministry.

The **Subvention Fund** of over £10,000 was entrusted to the Board of the Sustentation Fund, to be expended during a period of not less than seven years in making grants to those Ministers whose Stipends still fell below a minimum ranging from £220 (afterwards raised to £225) for country Congregations, up to £275 or £300 for large towns: the grants being gradually diminished, and the Congregations receiving them being expected to increase

their own contributions proportionately, so that when the fund is finally exhausted the loss of the grants will have been made good from Congregational sources. After full consideration of the financial position the normal grant was fixed at £25 per annum. The grants as originally voted remained practically unaltered until July 1st, 1922, but since then the process of reduction has been steadily continued with as much care and discrimination as possible. Substantial assistance has been given to the Subvention Fund from the Sustentation Fund income, especially in the earlier years; but heavier claims of late have not permitted so much to be done in this way. There will remain about £2,100 available for Subvention grants. If the original scheme of the Fund had been closely adhered to, the grants might have ceased at the end of 1926,—seven years from the inception of the Fund. But the Managers always hoped to extend this period, and it is now evident that it will be possible to carry on the grants for another two or three years, by continuing the progressive reductions which have been made since 1922.

In October, 1924, Mr. T. Fletcher Robinson, who had held the office of **Treasurer** since 1919, resigned his position on grounds of health, and Dr. George Jessel, M.A., was appointed by the Committee to fill the vacancy thus created. To mark their cordial appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. T. Fletcher Robinson, the Committee appointed him a Vice-President in the place of the late Rev. H. Enfield Dowson.

FINANCE.

During the past three years there has been an appreciable addition to the number of subscribing Congregations and Associations. The number of the former is now 219 (an increase of 45) and of

the latter 28 (an increase of 7). There have also been several instances of increased subscription by Congregations and Associations. It is to be hoped that this increase in the number and amount of subscriptions will continue. The Conference includes in its membership all the varied Congregations professing our Free Faith, and looks to them for adequate financial support. Membership of our National Conference should carry with it an implied obligation for each Congregation to contribute to the expenses according to its means. The Conference is very economically managed, and the expenditure is kept as low as is compatible with efficiency.

SECRETARYSHIP.

The Rev. Dendy Agate, who on the retirement of Rev. C. M. Wright from the **Secretaryship** of the Conference kindly consented to take up the work temporarily, carried the Manchester Conference through most ably, and for the past three years has done fine service which has been universally appreciated. These have included, not only the laborious work of the Ministerial Settlements Board and of the Committee on the Supply of Ministers, but also that of making preparations for the Sheffield Conference. It is with the deepest regret that the Committee have to accept the fact that the burden of years will make the continuance of such exacting labours for a further triennial period undesirable in Mr. Agate's own interest, even if not impossible. Considering from every point of view the new situation thus caused, your Committee, after receiving the unanimous recommendation of the Officers (including the Vice-Presidents), with the same unanimity resolved to propose to the Conference that Mr. Agate be invited to continue in his post till the autumn, and that as from then the Rev. R. Travers Herford should become the Secretary of

the Conference. Mr. Herford is willing to accept this nomination, and your Committee are confident that in him the Conference will have a worthy successor to the able men who have preceded him in the office. They consider themselves fortunate in being able to secure him, and they have no doubt that, with the assistance of Mr. Agate, he will soon be in a position to carry on the succession without a break and with equal ability.

OBITUARY.

We have lost by death two Vice-Presidents, the Rev. H. Enfield Dowson (President from 1909 to 1912), and Dr. W. Blake Odgers, K.C. (President from 1897 to 1900). No words can give adequate expression to the honour and affection in which Mr. Dowson was held among us, or can set forth the value of the untiring service which he gave to our Churches, to education, and to social progress for more than fifty years. Dr. Blake Odgers was a conspicuous example of similar devotion to good work on the part of an accomplished layman. His wise counsel was particularly valuable in assisting the formation and guiding the operations of the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund. Mr. George E. Verity, of Scarborough, formerly of Leeds, who was a member of the Committee for some years as representative of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union, rendered excellent service to the denomination. Resolutions of sympathy and appreciation were sent to the relatives of our three colleagues. Note should also be taken of the loss to our Churches by the death of the Rev. Dr. J. Edwin Odgers, of Oxford, who had taken an active part in many Triennial Conferences, while his gifts as a teacher and his personal characteristics endeared him to all his students.

ROLL OF THE CHURCHES.

With Amounts contributed by each.

ENGLAND.

	1922-23.				1923-24.				1924-25.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Accrington	0	10	6	...	0	10	6	...	0	10	6
Ainsworth											
Allostock											
Altrincham	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Ansdell	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Ashton-under-Lyne .....				...				...	0	5	0
Astley	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Banbury											
Barnard Castle											
Barnsley .....				...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Bath	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Bedfield											
Bedford											
Belper	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Bessel's Green											
Billingshurst											
Birkenhead .....				...	3	3	0	...	1	1	0
					(3 year-)						
Birmingham—											
Church of the Messiah...	7	16	0	...	8	12	9	...	7	3	7
Fazeley Street											
Waverley Rd. & Hurst St.	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...			
Moseley	0	5	0	...				...
Old Meeting	4	10	6	...	2	1	9	...	3	4	3
Newhall Hill	1	11	0	...				...
Blackburn .....				...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Blackpool—											
North Shore, Bank St.	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
South Shore	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Bolton—											
Bank Street	3	3	0	...	3	3	0	...	3	3	0
Deane Rd. Unity Church	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Halliwel Road	0	10	6	...	0	10	6	...	0	10	6
Bolton-on-Deane											
Boston											
Bournemouth	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0

1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.

Bradford—

Broadway Avenue

Chapel Lane 1 0 0 ... 1 0 0 ... 1 0 0

Bradwell 0 5 0

Bridgwater 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0

Bridport 1 0 0 ... 1 0 0 ... 1 0 0

Brighton 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Bristol—

Lewin's Mead 1 1 0 ... 1 1 0 ... 1 1 0

Montague Street

Burnley—

Trafalgar Street 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Burnley Lane

Bury—

Bank Street 2 2 0 ... 2 2 0 ... 2 2 0

Chesham 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0

Bury St. Edmunds

Buxton

Cambridge 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0

Carlisle

Chatham 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Cheltenham

Chester 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Chesterfield 1 1 0 .. 1 1 0 ... 1 1 0

Chichester

Choppington

Chorley 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Chowbent 2 0 0 ... 4 0 0 ...
(2 years)

Cirencester 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0

Clifton

Coalville

Colne 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0

Colyton

Congleton 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0

Coseley 0 5 0 ... 0 5 0

Coventry

Cradley

Crediton

Crewe 0 7 6 ... 0 8 0 ... 0 10 0

Crewkerne 0 10 0 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Croft

Croydon—

Dennett Hall

Wellesley Road 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6 ... 0 10 6

Cullompton 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0 ... 0 10 0

Dean Row 1 0 0 ... 1 0 0 ... 2 0 0

(2 years)

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Denton	0 10 6	0 10 6	1 1 0
Derby	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Dewsbury			
Diss			
Ditchling			
Doncaster			1 1 0
Dover	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Dudley	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Dukinfield	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Elland			
Evesham	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Exeter	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Filby			
Flagg			
Framlingham			
Frenchay	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Gainsborough	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 7 6
Gateacre			
Gatehead			
Gee Cross	3 3 0	3 3 0	3 3 0
Glossop	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Gloucester	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Godalming			
Great Hucklow			0 5 0
Great Yarmouth	0 5 0		
Guildford			
Hale	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Halifax	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Halstead			
Hapton			
Hastings	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Heywood	0 10 0	0 10 0	1 0 0
Hinckley	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Hindley	1 1 0	0 10 6	0 10 6
Horsham	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Horwich	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Huddersfield	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Hull	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Hyde (Flowery Field)	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Idle			
Ilford			
Ilkeston			
Ilminster	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Ipswich	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Kendal			
Kidderminster		0 10 0	0 10 0
Kingswood	0 5 0	0 5 0	
Kirkstead			

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Knut-ford	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Lancaster			0 10 0
Leeds—			
Holbeck	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Hunslet	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Mill Hill	5 5 0	5 5 0	5 5 0
Leicester—			
Great Meeting	3 3 0	3 3 0	3 3 0
Narborough Road	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Leigh	0 5 0	0 10 0	
		(2 years)	
Lewes	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Lincoln			
Liverpool—			
Ancient Chapel	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Bootle	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Hamilton Road			0 5 0
Hope Street	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Special Donation—			
Mill Street	2 2 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Ullet Road	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
London—			
Acton	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Bell Street			
Bermondsey			
Blackfriars		0 10 7	0 5 0
Brixton	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Child's Hill			
Deptford			
Dingley Place			
Essex Church	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
Finchley	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Forest Gate		0 5 0	
Hackney	0 2 6	0 2 6	0 2 6
Hampstead	5 5 0	2 16 11	4 3 0
Highgate			
Islington	0 10 6		
Kentish Town			
Kilburn	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Lewisham		0 10 6	0 10 6
Leytonstone			
Limehouse	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Mansford Street	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Peckham			
Rhyl Street			
Stepney Green			
Stoke Newington			
Stratford			

	1922-23.			1923-24.			1924-25.				
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.				
London (continued)—											
Wandsworth	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Wood Green .....				...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Woolwich											
Loughborough											
Lydgate	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Lye	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Macclesfield	0	5	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Maidstone	0	10	6	...	0	10	6	...	0	10	6
Malton											
Manchester											
Bible Christian .....				...				...	1	1	0
Blackley .....				...				...	1	0	0
									(2 years)		
Bradford	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Chorlton-cum-Hardy ...	1	0	0	...	1	0	0	...	1	0	0
Cross Street	5	5	0	...	5	5	0	...	5	5	0
Dob Lane	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Gorton	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Hulme Domestic Mission											
Longsight	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Moss Side	0	10	6	...	0	10	6	...	0	10	6
Oldham Road .....								...	1	1	0
									(2 years)		
Pendleton	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Platt	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Sale	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Swinton	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Urmston	1	15	0	...	0	7	0	...	0	7	0
Willert Street											
Man-field	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Mexborough .....				...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Middlesbrough	1	0	0	...				...
Middleton .....								...	0	5	0
Monton	2	2	0	...	2	2	0	...	3	3	0
Mortonhampstead											
Mossley	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Mottram	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Nantwich .....				...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Nelson											
Newark .....				...				...	0	5	0
Newbury											
Newcastle-on-Tyne	2	2	0	...	2	2	0	...	2	2	0
Newcastle-under-Lyme ...	0	7	0	...	0	7	0	...	0	10	0
Newchurch	0	10	6	...	0	10	6	...	0	10	6
Newport, I. of W.	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Newton Abbot											
Northampton	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0

	£ s. d. 1922-23.	£ s. d. 1923-24.	£ s. d. 1924-25.
Northiam			
Norwich	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Nottingham—			
Christ Church			
High Pavement		2 3 0	1 5 6
Oldbury	0 10 6	0 10 6	
		(10s. 6d. pd. later)	
Oldham	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Padiham	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Park Lane	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Pepperhill			
Plymouth	0 19 0	0 15 8	0 11 7
Poole			
Portsmouth—			
High Street			
St. Thomas' Street			
Preston	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Pudsey			0 10 0
Rawtenstall	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Reading			
Richmond			
Ringwood	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Rivington	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Rochdale		0 10 0	0 10 0
Rotherham	0 10 0	1 0 0	
		(2 years)	
Rushall			
St. Helens	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Scarborough	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Selby			0 7 6
Sheffield—			
Attercliffe	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Upper Chapel	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Unity Church	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Shepton Mallet			
Shrewsbury		1 1 0	1 1 0
Sidmouth	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Southampton	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Southend			
Southport	1 1 0	1 1 0	3 4 0
			(2 years)
South Shields	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Stalybridge	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Stand	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Stannington	0 5 0		0 5 0
Stockport	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Stockton-on-Tees	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Stourbridge		0 10 6	1 1 0

£146 0 0 £150 4 2 £153 10 11

SCOTLAND.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Dundee .....	...	...	0 10 6
Edinburgh	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Glasgow—			
Rose Street			
St. Vincent Street	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
	£2 1 0	£2 1 0	£2 1 6

IRELAND.

Antrim			
Ballee	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Ballycarry .....	...	0 5 0	0 5 0
Ballyclare			
Ballyhemlin			
Ballymoney			
Banbridge	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Belfast—			
First Pres. Church	1 1 0	2 2 0	1 1 0
		(2 years)	
All Souls	1 1 0	1 1 0	...
		(£1 1s. pd. later)	
Mountpottinger	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Stanhope Street			
York Street .....	...	0 10 0	0 10 0
Cairncastle	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Clough			
Comber	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Cork			
Crumlin			
Downpatrick			
Dromore			
Dublin	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Dunmurry	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Glenarm .....	...	...	0 10 0
Grey Abbey .....	...	...	0 10 0
Hollywood			
Killinchy			
Larne			
Moira			
Moneyrea			

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Newry			
Newtownards			
Rademon			
Raloo		0 10 0	0 10 0
Ravara			
Templepatrick			
Warrenpoint			
	£4 18 0	£7 14 0	£5 12 0

ASSEMBLIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brit. & For. Unit. Assn....	...	...	1 1 0
B. L. of Unit. Women ...	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Carmarthen College .....	...	...	1 1 0
Cent. Postal Mission	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Eastern Union	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
East Cheshire Union	1 1 0	2 2 0	
		(2 years)	
Lanc. & Ches. Prov. Assem.	5 5 0	5 5 0	6 6 0
Liverpool Dist. Mis. Assn.	3 3 0	3 3 0	5 5 0
London & S.E. Prov. Assem.	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
London District Unit. Soc.	1 1 0	1 1 0	
Manchester Coll., Oxford	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Manchester Dist. Assn....	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 2 0
Midland Chris. Union ...	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Midland Prov. Assem. ...	...	...	1 1 0
Nat. U. Temp. Assn.	1 1 0	1 1 0	2 1 0
Non-Subs. Presb. Church of Ireland	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
North Mid. Unit. Assn....	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
North & East Lanc. Unit. Mission	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Northumberland & Durham Unit. Assn.	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Scottish Unit. Assn.	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Sheffield & Dist. Assn. ...	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Southern Unit. Assn.	1 1 0	2 2 0	1 1 0
		(2 years)	
South Wales Unit Assn....	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Sunday School Assn. ....	...	...	1 1 0
Unit. College, Manchester	...	...	2 2 0

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
U. & F. C. Men's League		...	... 2 2 0 (2 years)
Western Union	1 1 0	... 1 1 0	... 1 1 0
Yorkshire Union	1 1 0	... 1 1 0	... 2 2 0
	£30 9 0	£32 11 0	£43 0 0

PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Bibby, J. T.									0	10	6
Bishop, Rev. J. W.	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Boyle, C. H. ....				...				...	1	1	0
Burgess, Rev. W. H.	0	2	6	...	0	2	6	...	0	2	6
Carpenter, Rev. Dr.	2	2	0	...	2	2	0	...	2	2	0
Chitty, Chas. W.	0	10	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	10	0
Chitty, Edward (decd.) ...	2	2	0	...	1	1	0	...			
Dowson, Rev. H. E. (decd.)				...				...	1	0	0
Greg, H. P.	2	2	0	...	2	2	0	...	2	2	0
Hall, Simeon ....				...				...	1	1	0
Holden, Rev. A. M.	0	5	0	...	0	5	0	...	0	5	0
Jacks, Rev. Dr. ....				...				...	1	1	0
Jessel, Dr. G. ....				...				...	1	1	0
Jacobson, W. H. ....				...				...	0	10	0
Kenrick, W. B.	50	0	0	...				...
	(special donation)										
Lee, T. Oliver ....				...				...	1	1	0
Leigh, Miss Elsie ....				...				...	0	10	6
Lewis, John ....				...				...	0	15	0
Monks, F. W. ....				...	2	2	0	...	2	2	0
				...	(2 years)			...			
Peaston, Rev. A. G.	0	5	0	...	0	10	0	...	0	5	0
				...	(2 years)			...			
Robinson, T. Fletcher ...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0	...	1	1	0
Taylor, W. E. ....				...				...	1	1	0
Vallance, A. C. ....				...				...	0	10	6
Warnock, Rev. H.	0	2	6	...	0	2	6	...	0	2	6
Wigley, J. ....				...				...	0	10	0
Woodhouse, Mrs. ....				...				...	1	1	0
<hr/>											
£58 17 0				£10 3 0				£20 10 6			

SUMMARY.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Congregations	£157 14 0	£166 16 8	£167 13 11
Assemblies & Associa- tions	30 9 0	32 11 0	43 0 0
Personal	58 17 0	10 3 0	26 5 6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£247 0 0	£209 10 8	£236 19 5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

As adopted at Leicester in 1900, and amended at Oxford in 1906, at Bolton in 1909, and at Birmingham in 1912.

1. This Conference shall be called "The National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian, and other non-subscribing or kindred Congregations." It shall meet at least once in every three years.

2. The following persons shall be members of the Conference and entitled to vote at all its meetings:—

- (a) The minister or ministers of each congregation on the roll of the Conference.
- (b) Two delegates from each congregation on the roll (It is understood that hospitality can be offered to one only.)
- (c) One delegate from each of the Societies enumerated in Rule 7.
- (d) Ministers not in charge of congregations whose names are contained in the last Essex Hall Year Book.
- (e) The Principal and all Professors on the permanent staff of Carmarthen College, Manchester College, Oxford, and the Unitarian College, Manchester.
- (f) All officers and members of the Committee.
- (g) All past Presidents.
- (h) All Preachers of the Conference Sermon.
- (i) Any other person who may be elected a member by resolution passed at any Triennial Conference. Such membership shall continue for the period named in the resolution, or, if no period be named therein, for seven years.

3. The Secretary shall keep a roll or list of the congregations and societies that are entitled to send representatives to a Conference. Any congregation or society not on the roll may apply in writing for admission after due notice has been given on the Agenda Paper. Such application shall in the first place be considered by the Committee, which may, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of the members present, at once place the name of such congregation or society on the roll. If two-thirds of the members of Committee present do not vote in favour of such resolution, the Committee shall not have power to

add the name of such congregation or society to the roll. But the Committee may by a simple majority pass a resolution recommending the Conference to do so.

4. Any member of the Conference who has given at least twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention, may propose at any Triennial Conference a resolution that the name of any congregation or society be added to the roll, or that any person be elected a member of the Conference under Rule 2 (*i*). Any such resolution may also be proposed on behalf of the Committee, in which case it shall be sufficient if notice of it be given in or with the report of the Committee. In either case, such resolution must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

5. The business of the Conference, subject to any directions given at any meeting of the Conference, shall be managed by the Committee and the Officers. The Committee shall decide what papers shall be read and what resolutions shall be moved at each Triennial Conference.

6. The Committee shall consist of:—(*a*) Representatives chosen by the Societies enumerated in Rule 7. (*b*) Fifteen persons to be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference. (*c*) Not more than six persons who may be elected from time to time by co-optation by those elected under clauses *a* and *b*. The Committee shall go out of office at the conclusion of each Triennial Conference.

7. Each of the following Societies shall have the right under Rule 6 (*a*), to elect a representative to serve on the Committee. The Secretary of each Society shall forward the name of its representative to the Secretary of the Conference at least ten days before the assembling of each Triennial Conference.

ENGLAND: The Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association for Missionary purposes.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

The Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

The Liverpool District Missionary Association.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

The East Cheshire Christian Union for Missionary purposes.

The North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.

The Midland Christian Union of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and other Non-subscribing Churches.

The Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The London District and S E. Provincial Assembly.

The Southern Unitarian Association.

The North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Sheffield and District Association of Churches.

The General Baptist Assembly.

The Manchester College, Oxford.

The Unitarian College, Manchester.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The Sunday School Association.

The Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers' Union.

The British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women.

The Unitarian and Free Christian Men's League.

The Manchester District League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women.

The Conference Union for Social Service.

The National Unitarian Temperance Association.

The Missionary Conference.

The National Union of Unitarian and Liberal Christian Lay Preachers.

The International Congress of Free Christians and other Religious Liberals.

WALES :

The South Wales Unitarian Association.

The South-East Wales Unitarian Society.

The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

SCOTLAND : The Scottish Unitarian Association.

IRELAND : The Presbytery of Antrim.

The Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.

The United Presbytery or Synod of Munster.

The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing
Presbyterians and other Free Christians.

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of
Ireland.

Any Society not enumerated in Rule 7 may apply in writing to the Secretary to be so enumerated, and such application shall be considered by the Conference at its next Triennial Meeting, provided that the application has been received not later than the preceding December 31st. The Conference may by a resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to such application.

8. The fifteen persons to be elected by the members under Rule 6 (*b*) shall be nominated in the following manner:—Every congregation on the roll, and every Society enumerated in Rule 7, shall be notified that it may nominate some one person, who need not be a member of the congregation or society nominating, to serve on the Committee. The expiring Committee may also, if they think fit, nominate not more than six persons not being members of the expiring Committee—to serve on the new Committee. All such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the assembling of the Conference. He shall then prepare a list of the persons nominated, showing by whom each person is nominated, and shall cause the same to be printed and delivered to each member as soon as possible after his arrival in the town in which the Conference is held. No one whose name does not appear on such list shall be elected on the committee under Rule 6 (*b*), except by a unanimous vote of the members present.

9. From the persons nominated in accordance with Rule 8, fifteen shall be elected in the following manner:—The President or other Chairman of the Meeting shall appoint Scrutineers. Each member shall make, on his copy of the list of persons nominated, a cross opposite the names of the persons for whom he intends to vote. The Scrutineers, if members, may vote. No member may vote for more than fifteen persons to serve on the Committee. Each

member shall then sign his list with his name and address, and hand it as his voting paper to the Scrutineers. If any member who has been present during any portion of the Conference is compelled to leave before the Business Meeting, he may lodge his voting paper, duly signed, with the Secretary, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed "To the Scrutineers"; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to hand the same to the Scrutineers on behalf of such member.

10. The Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper which is not signed by a member, every voting paper on which more than fifteen names (of those nominated for Committee) are marked, and every voting paper which is in their opinion unintelligible or equivocal. They shall then count the votes, and the Chairman shall announce the result to the meeting. The voting papers shall then be destroyed by the Secretary.

11. The Officers of the Conference shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, one or more Secretaries (Honorary or paid), and two Auditors. The Officers shall be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference, and shall hold office till the conclusion of the next Triennial Conference. Honorary Officers shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

12. It shall be the duty of the expiring Committee to submit to each Triennial Conference the names of persons whom they deem qualified, and whom they have ascertained to be willing, to serve as Officers of the Conference. Any member present at any Triennial Conference may propose any other person for any office, and the vote shall be taken at the Business Meeting by show of hands.

13. The Committee may fill up any vacancy which may occur on the Committee or in any office through death, absence, resignation, or from any other cause.

14. The Committee shall hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the congregations and societies on the roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organising expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects, or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.

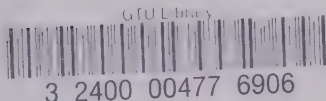
15. At each Triennial Conference the Committee shall present to the members a full report of its proceedings and of the action which it has taken, for the approval or otherwise of the Conference. A copy of such report shall be forwarded ten days at least to every member whose name and address is then known to the Secretary. It shall

state the general nature of any resolution (other than formal or usual business) which is to be proposed on behalf of the Committee at the approaching Conference.

16. These Rules may be varied or repealed, or new Rules made, at any Triennial Conference by a resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Unless such resolution is to be moved on behalf of the Committee, notice of the proposed alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary twenty-eight days at least before the assembling of the Conference. In either case, notice of the resolution must be given in or with the report of the Committee. Notice of any other resolution proposed to be moved at the Business Meeting must reach the Secretary two days at least before the assembling of each Conference.

NOTE.—The following Resolution, adopted at Oxford in 1906, though not embodied in the Rules, is important:—

“That the Congregations on the Roll be urgently requested to make an annual contribution towards meeting the ordinary expenses of the Conference.”



112352
N119.4 no. 14

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

Unitarian. Liberal Christian, Free Christian,
Presbyterian, and other

Non-subscribing or Kindred Congregations.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE, ETC.

Presented at Manchester,

April, 1923.

*

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1920-23.

President : Mr. W. BYNG KENRICK, B.A.

Vice-Presidents :

Rev. Dr. J. E. CARPENTER.
Rev. H. E. DOWSON, B.A.
Rev. JAMES HARWOOD, B.A.
Mr. F. W. MONKS, J.P.
Dr. W. BLAKE ODGERS, K.C.
Mr. HUGH R. RATHBONE, M.A.

Treasurer : Mr. T. FLETCHER ROBINSON, J.P.

Auditors :

Messrs. LAWRENCE HALL and C. SYDNEY JONES, M.A.

Secretary : *Rev. DENDY AGATE, B.A., Greenbank, Borwick,
Carnforth.

Committee :

Elected Members :

Rev. J. W. BISHOP.	Rev. R. F. RATTRAY.
Rev. JOHN ELLIS.	M.A., Ph.D. (resigned).
Dr. GEORGE JESSEL.	Rev. LAWRENCE REDFERN,
Mr. T. OLIVER LEE, B.A.	M.A., B.D.
Rev. ALFRED HALL, M.A., B.D.	Rev. C. ROPER, B.A.
Mr. ALBERT NICHOLSON.	Rev. C. J. STREET, M.A., LL.B.
Rev. G. A. PAYNE.	Rev. J. M. LLOYD THOMAS.
Rev. J. A. PEARSON.	Mr. J. WIGLEY.
	Mrs. WOODHOUSE.

Co-opted Members :

*Mr. E. H. COYSH.	Mr. H. P. GREG, M.A.
Rev. W. H. BURGESS, M.A.	Mr. RONALD P. JONES, M.A.
Rev. F. K. FREESTON.	Mr. GOMER LL. THOMAS.

Representative Members :

Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association
—Rev. W. H. LAMBALLE.
Yorkshire Unitarian Union.—Mr. G. E. VERITY.
Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire.—Rev. N.
ANDERTON, B.A.
North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.—*Rev. J.
ISLAM JONES, M.A.

Liverpool District Missionary Association.—Mr. W. H. THOMAS.

Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.—Mr. OLIVER H. HEYS.

East Cheshire Christian Union.—Rev. H. E. PERRY.

North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.—Rev. SIMON JONES, B.A.

Midland Christian Union.—Mr. W. BYNG KENRICK, B.A.

Eastern Union.—*Rev. WILFRED HARRIS, M.A.

Provincial Assembly of London and South Eastern Counties.
*Rev. J. M. CONNELL.

London District Unitarian Society.—Mr. A. A. TAYLER.

Southern Unitarian Association.—*Rev. A. R. ANDREAE, M.A.

North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.—Mrs. HALSTEAD.

Western Union.—Rev. RUDOLF DAVIS, B.A.

Sheffield and District Association.—Mr. W. E. TAYLOR.

General Baptist Assembly.—Rev. C. A. GINEVER, B.A.

Manchester College.—Rev. H. GOW, B.A., D.D.

Unitarian Home Missionary College.—*Mr. LAWRENCE HALL.

British and Foreign Unitarian Association.—Rev. W. G. TARRANT, B.A.

Sunday School Association.—*Rev. BERTRAM LISTER, M.A.

Central Postal Mission.—Rev. F. HANKINSON.

British League of Unitarian Women.—Mrs. SYDNEY MARTINEAU.

Conference Union for Social Service.—*Rev. PERCIVAL CHALK.

National Unitarian Temperance Association.—*Mr. J. BREDALL, F.R.G.S.

Missionary Conference.—Rev. W. T. BUSHROD.

South Wales Unitarian Association.—Rev. T. ARTHUR THOMAS.

South-East Wales Unitarian Society.—Councillor R. D. WILLIAMS, D.S.O.

Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.—Mr. HAROLD BAILY.

Scottish Unitarian Association.—*Rev. L. JENKINS JONES.

Presbytery of Antrim.—Rev. H. J. ROSSINGTON, M.A., B.D.

Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.—*Rev. J. A. KELLY.

Synod of Munster.—Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A.

Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, etc., Association.—*Rev. J. GLYNNE DAVIES.

Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.—Rev. G. J. SLIPPER.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.—Rev. A. TURNER.

**Appointed during the Triennial Term.*

Sketch of the History of the Conference.

The National Conference has gradually grown into what we know it to be to-day. At a meeting of the Council of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1881, a Committee was appointed "to make arrangements for a meeting of Ministers and Laymen for Religious Fellowship and Conference in some district in England." It was agreed that such meeting be held in Liverpool in the following year, and "invitations were first issued to all Ministers and Congregations in the Unitarian Almanac, and to the leading Laymen of the Body, with a Postscript asking for the names of Ministers and others to whom it was thought desirable that circulars should be sent." The widest possible basis was desired. Advertisements offering circulars of invitation were inserted in Papers like *The Christian World*, *The Freeman*, *The Nonconformist*, and *The Independent*. Well-known leaders outside Unitarian circles were asked to take part in the meeting, but the only one to respond to the invitation seems to have been the Rev. Joseph Wood, then Congregational Minister at Leicester, who afterwards rendered splendid service to the Conference, notably as its President (1906-1909).

The remarkable success of the Liverpool meetings, as regards both numbers and enthusiasm, led to similar meetings being held in Birmingham in 1885, and since then they have been held triennially, except during the war. The meetings have always been open to all comers, but practical considerations of accommodation, combined with a desire to give the Conference a representative character, caused *personal* invitations to be limited to Ministers and definitely appointed Delegates from Congregations and Societies. A further step was taken at a special meeting held in London in 1898, when it was resolved that the Committee of the Conference, having been constituted on a basis to represent the various Congregations and Associations which compose the Conference, "be instructed to hold regular meetings to consult, and, when considered advisable, to take action in matters affecting the

well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies which form the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects; or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference." Thus the Conference has gradually become the recognized organ of our Churches. Without seeking to exercise anything in the way of ecclesiastical authority, it is always striving to draw the Churches more closely to each other in the bonds of fellowship and to make them stronger through and for mutual helpfulness.

What has it actually done in this way? In the first place, its Triennial Meetings have aroused and strengthened the sense of common aims and needs and duties. They have brought together representatives from every part of the Kingdom—many of them holding the fort in lonely places—to confer on matters of importance, to be quickened by the Preacher's or Speaker's word, and the collective voice of Praise and Prayer.

But more than this, the Conference has initiated several important movements and Societies. The Sustentation Fund for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, which now has a capital of over £83,000 and distributed last year £3,800, was founded at the first meeting, and was greatly enlarged as the result of the meeting in 1912. This was followed in 1902 by the MINISTERS' PENSION AND INSURANCE FUND, which possesses a capital of £23,045 15s. 1d., and enables more than one-third of our Ministers to make some provision for old age and death. By the generous benefactions of the late Mr. Philip Holt, a further capital of £11,043 11s. 6d. is administered by the Managers, being utilized partly to strengthen the General Fund and largely to assist Ministers in making some Educational Provision for their children.

The Conference has also been the means of establishing ADVISORY COMMITTEES throughout England and Wales, whose chief object is to enquire into the credentials of men desiring to enter our ministry who have not passed through one of our Colleges. There are five such Committees, and the importance and delicacy of their duties are indicated by the number of applications with which they deal. Then, there is the MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS BOARD, whose services are at the disposal of any Congregation or Minister desiring a settlement. The need for this Board is shown by the frequency with which its help is sought. The function of the COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS is indi-

ated by its title, and none is of greater concern to the welfare of our Churches. The Committee has organized and is working a Scheme of Study to assist men possessing essential gifts for the ministry, but lacking early training.

The GUILDS' UNION, to encourage young people to band themselves together for religious objects, and the SOCIAL SERVICE UNION, to arouse in the Churches a deeper interest in the pressing social problems of the day, further illustrate the wide scope of Conference interest. At the Meetings in Leeds in 1920, an important recommendation was made for increasing Ministers' Stipends, for a period of years, and assisting in the education of their children.

It will thus be seen that the NATIONAL CONFERENCE has not only an honourable past, but also a future, which entitles it to the loyal support of all who are interested in our Churches.

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS have been held at the following places:

1882—Liverpool.	1903—Liverpool.
1885—Birmingham.	1906—Oxford.
1888—Leeds.	1909—Bolton.
1891—London.	1912—Birmingham.
1894—Manchester.	1915—London.
1897—Sheffield.	1920—Leeds.
1900—Leicester.	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

1920-1923.

THE last Report, presented at Leeds in 1920, opened with references to the changed conditions brought about by the War and the Peace, and dwelt on the opportunities and duties presented to us. If, during the past three years, much has occurred to sadden us in the state of affairs both at home and abroad, and the world is slower than we had hoped it would be in recovering from the great shock and strain through which the nations have passed, it is encouraging to note some special signs of progress in the Churches represented here. Chief among these is the establishment of the Laymen's League, which was formally constituted at Essex Hall in Whit-week, 1920. Your Committee had the satisfaction of taking some part in its inception. The Secretary, Mr. Robert Milnes, reports substantial progress in the organization of the League's activities. The number of Chapters is now upwards of thirty; and others are in course of formation. Including the names of

members enrolled at headquarters and unattached to Chapters, the total membership is over 600. The reports received from Chapters are most encouraging, and include the arrangement of lectures and debates, the formation of Men's Classes, systematic visiting of old and absent members, the provision of sidesmen, stewards, and a welcome for strangers, the taking of services in the absence of Ministers, the conduct of open-air meetings, the provision of a "wayside pulpit," the arrangement of special musical services, and assistance to various departments of Sunday School, Scout and Guide work. There has also been some raising of money for congregational purposes, and several Chapters have saved expense by voluntary labour for the repair and maintenance of buildings. Joint meetings of Chapters have been held to bring into closer fellowship men of neighbouring churches and of different classes. The movement owes a great debt of gratitude to its first Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Wilson, for his indefatigable efforts.

It is good to know that the Women's League, established thirteen years earlier, has continued to grow, and renders valuable service in many ways. The Secretary, Miss Brooke Herford, writes:—

"The British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women was founded in 1908, to draw women, young and old, together in a united effort to strengthen the Churches to which they belong, and to quicken their religious life; to unite in a real 'Fellowship' all lonely women in the

United Kingdom and Overseas Dominions who through illness or distance cannot join a congregation; and to find friends and a welcome for women and girls moving from place to place or going abroad. Co-operation between the British League and the American 'Alliance of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women' in Fellowship work is now active by means of 'Friendly Links' correspondence, a network of friendship between members at home, in overseas dominions and abroad; and the League is in touch with women of the new Liberal Religious Movements in foreign countries. There are now 125 Branches, including those in the Dominions and South Africa, and six District Societies. The League has been invited to co-operate with the League of Nations Union, and is now represented by a member of its Committee on the Women's Advisory Council of the Union."

A suggestion has been made for the formation of a third League, in which the Young People of our Schools and Churches may be helped to realize their fellowship with each other throughout the land, and encouraged and trained to take an early and active part in the religious life of our community, of which, ere many years have passed, they must become the responsible leaders.

It is too early to estimate the possibilities in this direction, but the Conference will surely welcome and seek to foster any such addition to the working forces of our corporate life.

Another encouraging feature of our denominational life is the Correspondence Tuition Scheme put forth by the National Union of Unitarian and Liberal Christian Lay Preachers. The lack of a sufficient number of qualified full-time Ministers, and the financial conditions of many of our smaller congregations, make the help of Lay Preachers of very special value; and it is plain that those who are willing to devote some of their week-day leisure to systematic preparation for the self-denying work they do on Sundays, benefit both themselves and those to whom they minister. The Lay Preachers' Union is to be congratulated both on the conception of a Tuition Scheme and on the success which has so far attended it. The Secretary of the Union, Mr. J. W. Peterken, has furnished the following particulars :—

In the spring of 1922 some sixty students entered for the courses arranged. This was made possible by the generous co-operation of several of the most eminent teachers of our denomination promising to conduct the classes without fee or reward, beyond the joy of service in a good cause. All the following classes were quickly filled up for the first year's tuition:—

CLASS.	CONDUCTED BY.
Biblical Knowledge, New Testament.	REV. HENRY GOW, D.D., Manchester College, Oxford.
Biblical Knowledge, Old Testament.	REV. PHILEMON MOORE, B.A., The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

CLASS.	CONDUCTED BY
Church History (including History of Unitarianism).	Rev. HERBERT McLACHLAN, D.D., Principal U.H.M. College, Manchester.
Philosophy of Religion.	Rev. S. H. MELLONE, D.Sc., Essex Hall.
„ „	Rev. EDGAR THACKRAY, Ph.D., U.H.M. College, Manchester.
„ „	Rev. J. CYRIL FLOWER, M.A., Cambridge.
Psychology.	Rev. J. CYRIL FLOWER, M.A., Cambridge.
History of Religion.	Rev. J. C. BALLANTYNE, Liverpool.

The Union aids the Students in the purchase of books, refunds necessary postages, and grants a Diploma for each subject to those who pass the examination.

A panel of Ministers have also placed their services at the disposal of the Union for examining sermons submitted by Lay Preachers for criticism. Much helpful advice has been given to those who have availed themselves of this offer.

Reference may also appropriately be made to the Pioneer Preachers, founded by Rev. R. J. Campbell, when minister of the City Temple, London, and taken over by a Committee of Unitarians in 1912 with Dr. W. Tudor Jones as Warden, who continue their service of certain churches in and about London, and their preparation for college and the regular

ministry. Men who have gone to college from the Hostel (23 Highbury Place, N. 5) speak with high appreciation of the valuable experience they gained and the positions they occupy in our churches is a testimony to their judgment. At the present time three former Pioneers are studying at the Unitarian Home Missionary College and another is preparing for admission to Manchester College. The Hostel is managed by a Committee of seven ministers and laymen, and is supported at considerable expense by a growing number of subscribers.

The Committee on the Supply of Ministers has been concerned mainly with the examinations and general progress of the Lay Workers on Probation. Of the four who were on the list at the time of the last Report, one withdrew, having accepted the charge of a Congregational Church, two have completed their course and have become recognized Ministers; and one, who passed his first examination in 1921, is still on the list. The names of twelve others were entered; but of these, two have ceased to have charge of congregations. Of the remaining ten, one (in charge of a congregation) is in regular attendance as a student of the Unitarian Home Missionary College, and will therefore take the College examinations instead of those of the Conference; eight others are also in charge of congregations, and one is desiring settlement and is meanwhile carrying on his studies. If there are no further additions to the list for the current year and no withdrawals, ten

candidates will present themselves for examination next October, viz., three for the third year, one for the second (his examination, due in 1922, having been postponed for a year), and six for the first. This is an unusually large number, but the Advisory Committees which issue the certificates required before a candidate can become a "Lay Worker on Probation," are satisfied that in none of these cases would it have been possible for the candidate to take a regular College course. And it may be said generally that the Advisory Committees exercise much care in the issuing of certificates, and that the list of Lay Workers would have been longer than it is, had not some applications been refused. The Committee have good reason to believe that all those in charge of congregations are doing sound work as preachers and pastors.

There is welcome evidence of growing interest in the supremely important question of the provision of Students for the Ministry, trained by regular Collegiate courses. The Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire has recently urged the making of an appeal, and the furnishing of information in Church Calendars; and what has already been done in this way might well be followed up elsewhere. As, with the lapse of years, we inevitably lose tried and faithful workers, it encourages us to note that there is now prospect of an increasing number of students for the ministry, and that in many places there are young people willing, sometimes eager, to take their

part in the Church's happy and uplifting fellowship and in united labour for noble ends.

Certain questions having arisen in connection with one application to an Advisory Committee, your Committee, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Supply of Ministers, decided to call a Conference of representatives of Advisory Committees to consider those questions, some others that may present themselves, and a possible revision of the regulations adopted by the Advisory Committees some years ago. As a result of that Conference, which was held in Manchester on January 12th, certain conclusions were reached, which have been remitted to the separate Advisory Committees for consideration, and will also come before your new Committee.

The result of the Appeal for £20,000, which, after allowing for any special directions from individual donors, was to be divided equally for Subvention of Stipends and Education of Ministers' children, was most gratifying, no less a sum than £21,678 being promised.

The *Subvention Fund* of over £10,000 is entrusted to the Board of the Sustentation Fund, to be expended during a period of not less than seven years in making grants to those Ministers whose Stipends still fall below a minimum ranging from £220 (afterwards raised to £225) for country Congregations, up to

£275 or £300 for large towns; the grants being gradually diminished, and the Congregations receiving them being expected to increase their own contributions proportionately, so that when the fund is finally exhausted the loss of the grants will have been made good from Congregational sources. After full consideration of the financial position the normal grant was fixed at £25 per annum.

Grants as from January 1st, 1920, were voted to ninety-seven Ministers (some of whom were not receiving Sustentation grants), in most cases of £25, with a few of £20 or £30, the total amount expended for 1920 being £2,393. Towards this, the Managers transferred the available balance of £770 from the Sustentation Fund account, after retaining the usual amount required for carrying forward to the next year. This contribution from the older Fund will be continued annually as circumstances allow, and was always counted on, in order to spread the Subvention Fund over as long a period as possible.

At their meeting in 1921 the Managers decided to extend all the grants voted for the year 1920, at the same rate for a further six months to the end of June, so that the grants from both Funds should in future date from July 1st in each year. For the twelve months beginning July 1st, 1921, grants were voted to ninety-six ministers. In six cases the grants were increased, on the promise of a corresponding increase in the Congregational contribution. The amount expended was £2,278, towards which the Managers

transferred the balance of £650 available from the Sustentation Fund.

The *Education Fund* is quite different. Everything paid in to this account is added as capital to the Philip Holt Fund, which, by direction of its founder, is administered by the Managers of the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund. Already, £10,000 has been so invested, and the interest is used for the assistance of Ministers in the education of their children. The value of this new Fund is attested by the fact that no fewer than fifty-three children of thirty-eight Ministers have so far been assisted in this way, quite apart from the aid given by the Philip Holt Fund for educational endowment insurance. Adequate provision has now been made in this direction, and the Ministers are most grateful for the thoughtful assistance rendered. Henceforth, it rests with them to see that full advantage is taken of the facilities offered by the denomination, and to make themselves familiar with the conditions of the Funds which are employed on their behalf. Particularly is it important that they should insure their children in early years through the Philip Holt Fund for educational endowment, which may take effect at age of 10 or 12 or 14 or 18, as may be desired. Such insurance is comparatively easy then, especially when the Fund contributes half the premium; often it becomes impracticable later on account of the high premium necessarily charged. The administration

of the Education Fund is entrusted, not only to the Managers of the Philip Holt Fund, but in association with them to six representatives of the Conference Committee. So cordial has been their reception by their colleagues that, at the wish of the Board, they assist also in the direction of the Pension and Insurance Fund and of the Philip Holt Fund. Until the constitution of these Funds is modified this collaboration is only a matter of courtesy; but it is gratifying to know that, at a joint meeting of the subscribers to the three Funds to be held in Conference week, it is the intention of the Managers to propose that the six representatives of the Conference shall be added for all purposes to the Board of Management.

The Ministerial Settlements Board has received, or carried over from the list of 1920, applications from forty-two Churches for recommendations to vacant pulpits. Thirty of the vacant pulpits have been filled, but only three of them directly as a result of recommendations from the Board. On the Standing List of Ministers desiring settlement there have been forty-four names, of which twenty-three were withdrawn on settlement or for personal reasons, leaving twenty-one on the list. As is pointed out in the Report on Organization (referred to in the next paragraph), the method of dealing with applications from both Churches and Ministers is the result of several years' experience, and involves much correspondence.

Your Committee would rejoice if the value of this branch of its work were more widely recognized, and is anxious to make it as useful and effective as possible.

One important matter which has engaged the attention of your Committee is the Organization of our Churches—a question which has never lost its interest since the special impetus given to it by Dr. Martineau at the Leeds Conference of 1888. It was pressed upon your Committee that the time had come for devoting further attention to it. So a Special Committee was appointed, which carefully considered various suggestions which had been made, and drew up a report which was adopted with slight alteration by your Committee, and was printed and circulated in the summer of 1922. The Report was sent to all the District Associations and to other bodies concerned, and it is a source of satisfaction that one of its suggestions, the establishment of a Midland Provincial Assembly, is already taking practical shape. It is proposed that this Assembly shall include the areas covered by the Midland Christian Union, the North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association, and the Sheffield District Association. In connection with this Assembly there will probably be a new Advisory Committee, which will take over a portion of the work hitherto done partly by the Advisory Committee for London and the S. E. Counties and partly by the Northern Advisory Board. This arrangement would certainly conduce to more effective working. Your Committee is glad further to

report that the Scottish Unitarian Association has decided to join the Northern Advisory Board and has appointed delegates to serve upon it.

There has been only one addition to the Roll of Churches connected with the Conference, viz., the Moseley Unitarian Church, Birmingham. On the other hand, some disappear from the list, and among these are the Upper Brook Street Free Church, Manchester, and the Willert Street Domestic Mission, Manchester; the buildings in both cases having been sold. Your Committee share with their friends in Manchester the regret which they feel at the cessation of work which had been carried on at Willert Street and the previous homes of the Mission for ninety years, and by the Upper Brook Street Congregation and its predecessor in Mosley Street for 130 years, and with which many honoured names of both ministers and laymen had been connected; but there is some consolation in the fact that the proceeds of the sale of the property will be available for other work in the Manchester district. In this connection it may be noted with thankfulness that though the Upper Brook Street Congregation has ceased to exist, there has been during the last three years a great revival of interest and activity at Cross Street under the ministry of the Rev. H. H. Johnson, so that the numbers in regular attendance at our worship in the city are much larger than they were. The Church at Darlington, with a history of seventy years, has also been closed, and the property

disposed of. The opening of the new Church Hall at Cambridge, and the prospect of the erection of a Church there (through the generosity of an anonymous donor), are a source of the liveliest satisfaction.

A movement having been started to make some additional provision for Retired Ministers with very limited incomes, your Committee gladly appointed some of its members to confer with the representatives of other organizations upon the matter. In spite of the difficulties of the times, and the many other calls upon the generosity of our people, a very satisfactory result was achieved, and there has been in consequence a considerable lessening of anxiety in the households of several faithful men now past work. Success, due to the same kindly spirit, has attended a similar effort on behalf of Ministers' Widows.

Your Committee has been represented by deputations at several gatherings of local Associations and Assemblies, and in one case (that of Chowbent) of a congregation celebrating its Bi-centenary. From those attending these gatherings on your behalf interesting reports were received, which bore testimony to steady devotion to our principles on the part of workers old and young, who, often in somewhat discouraging circumstances, keep the lamp of faith and service burning. We also sent a representative to the International Peace Congress held in London in July, 1922, which was full of enthusiasm and of hope

for the future. On his visit to America in the summer of 1920 to preach the Pilgrim Fathers' Tercentenary Sermon, the Rev. C. J. Street took with him a special message of remembrance and greeting to our friends across the Atlantic. Towards the close of 1921, a very cordial letter of good-will was received by your Committee from the Rev. Palfrey Perkins, Secretary of the General Unitarian Conference of the United States and Canada, to which a suitable reply was sent.

Some serious losses by death have to be recorded. The Rev. Joseph Wood, a Vice-President and former President, was always deeply interested in the work of the Conference, and served it with constant devotion. Miss H. M. Johnson and the Rev. J. J. Wright, members of the Committee, had done admirable service in their different fields of labour, and were held in high regard by their colleagues on the Committee. Letters of appreciation of their work and of sympathy with their surviving relatives were sent to the families of those who have been named.

FINANCE.—The appeal made annually by the Treasurer when the yearly Statement and Balance Sheet are issued has met with some response. But even yet only half the congregations on the roll contribute anything to the funds of the Conference; and it is hoped that during the next three years a good many more may feel able to do so, and thus provide for its increasing work to be carried on.

The Committee recommends that under Rule 7, the Laymen's League and the National Union of Lay Preachers be added to the list of Societies entitled to elect a representative to serve on the Committee.

In February, 1921, the Rev. C. M. Wright, who had been appointed in June, 1919, found it necessary, because of his health and his congregational work, to resign the Secretaryship. Your Committee accepted the resignation with deep regret, and assured Mr. Wright of their appreciation of his devotion to the duties of his office and of their best wishes. Your Officers were faced with the difficulty of securing at a few days' notice a volunteer to carry on the secretarial work. They were fortunate in finding in the Rev. Dendy Agate one who was willing to face the task with courage, vigour and devotion, and the Committee desires to make special acknowledgment of his services in this connection. Subsequently Mr. Agate was duly appointed Secretary in succession to Mr. Wright.

W. BYNG KENRICK,
President.

ROLL OF THE CHURCHES

With Amounts contributed by each.

ENGLAND.

	1919-20				1920-21				1921-22		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Accrington	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Ainsworth											
Allostock											
Altrincham	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Ansdell	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Ashton-under-Lyne											
Astley	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Banbury											
Barnard Castle											
Bath	0	10	6	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
Bedfield											
Bedford											
Belper	0	7	10	..	0	7	7	..	0	10	0
Bessel's Green											
Billingshurst											
Birkenhead	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Birmingham—											
Church of the Messiah ...	7	1	8	..	5	7	4	..	7	7	10
Fazeley Street											
Waverley Rd. & Hurst St..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
					(1920/22)		(1922/23)				
Moseley .....				..	0	10	0	..	0	5	0
Old Meeting	4	12	0	..	4	11	8	..	4	15	8
Newhall Hill .....				..				..	1	11	0
Blackburn	0	5	0	..				..
Blackpool—											
North Shore, Bank Street..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
South Shore	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Bolton—											
Bank Street	3	3	0	..	3	3	0	..	3	3	0
Deane Rd., Unity Church..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Halliwell Road .....				..	0	5	0	..	0	7	6

[illegible]

	1919-20			1920-21			1921-22		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Croydon—									
Dennett Hall									
Wellesley Road							1	7	6
Cullompton	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0
Darlington	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	
Dean Row	1	0	0	..	1	0	0	..	1
Denton	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0
Derby	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0
Dewsbury									
Diss									
Ditchling									
Doncaster .....				..	0	10	6	..	
Dover	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0
Dudley .....				..	0	10	6	..	0
Dukinfield	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1
Elland	(Closed)								
Evesham	1	0	0	..	1	1	0	..	1
Exeter	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0
Filby									
Flagg									
Framlingham and Bedfield ..				..	0	7	0	..	
Frenchay	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0
Gainsborough .....				..			..	0	7
Gateacre .....				..	0	5	0	..	
Gateshead	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0
Gee Cross	3	3	0	..	3	3	0	..	3
Glossop	0	5	0	..	0	10	0	..	0
Gloucester	0	10	0	..	0	10	6	..	0
Godalming									
Great Hucklow									
Great Yarmouth	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	
Guildford									
Hale	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0
Halifax	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1
Halstead									
Hapton									
Hastings .....				..	2	2	0	..	0
Heywood	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0
Hinckley	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1
Hindley	1	1	0	..	0	5	0	..	0
Horsham	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0
Horwich .....				..			..	1	0
Huddersfield	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1

	1919-20			1920-21			1921-22		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Hull	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hyde (Flowery Field)	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Idle									
Ilford									
Ilkeston									
Ilminster	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Ipswich	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kendal									
Kidderminster									
Kingswood				0	5	0			
Kirkstead									
Knutsford							0	10	6
Lancaster									
Leeds—									
Holbeck	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Hunslet	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Mill Hill	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
Leicester—									
Great Meeting	6	6	0	(1919/21)			3	3	0
Narborough Road	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Leigh	0	5	0	0	10	0	(1920-22)		
Lewes	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lincoln									
Liverpool—									
Ancient Chapel	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Bootle							0	5	0
Hamilton Road									
Hope Street	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Mill Street	0	5	0	0	5	0			
Ullet Road	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
London—									
Acton				0	10	0	0	10	0
Bell Street									
Bermondsey									
Blackfriars									
Brixton	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Child's Hill									
Deptford									
Dingley Place									
Essex Church	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
Finchley	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Forest Gate									
Hackney				0	2	6	0	2	6

	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
London (continued)—			
Hampstead	5 5 0 ..	5 5 0 ..	5 5 0
Highgate			
Islington			
Kentish Town			
Kilburn	0 10 0 ..	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6
Lewisham	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0 ..	
Limehouse	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0
	1919/21)		(1921/23)
Mansford Street	0 10 0 ..		.. 0 10 0
Peckham			
Ryhl Street			
Richmond			
Stepney Green			
Stoke Newington			
Stratford			
Wandsworth	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0
Wood Green			
Woolwich			
Long Sutton	(Closed)		
Loughborough			
Lydgate	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0
Lye			
Macclesfield	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0
Maidstone	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6
Malton			
Manchester—			
Blackley			
Bradford	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0
Chorlton-cum-Hardy		1 0 0 ..	1 0 0
Cross Street	5 5 0 ..	5 5 0 ..	5 5 0
Dob Lane	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0
Gorton	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0
Hulme Domestic Mission..			
Longsight	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0
Moss Side	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6
Oldham Road			
Pendleton	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0 ..	0 10 0
Platt	1 1 0 ..	(1920-22) 2 2 0	
Sale	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0 ..	1 1 0
Swinton	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0 ..	0 5 0
Urmston .....		.. 0 2 6 ..	0 7 0
Willert Street			

	1919-20				1920-21				1921-22		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mansfield	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Mexborough									0	10	0
Middlesbrough	1	0	0	..	1	0	0	..	1	0	0
Middleton											
Monton	2	2	0	..	2	2	0	..	2	2	0
Moretonhampstead											
Mossley	0	5	0	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
Mottram	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Nantwich											
Nelson											
Newark											
Newbury	0	10	0								
Newcastle-on-Tyne	2	2	0	..	2	2	0	..	2	2	0
Newcastle-under-Lyme	0	7	2	..	(1920/22)				0	10	0
Newchurch	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Newport, I. of W.	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Newton Abbot											
Northampton .....				..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Northiam											
Norwich	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Nottingham—											
Christ Church											
High Pavement .....				..	1	7	5	..	1	11	6
Oldbury	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Oldham	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Oxford	2	2	0	..	2	2	0	..	2	2	0
Padiham	1	0	0	..	1	0	0	..	1	0	0
Park Lane									0	10	0
Pepperhill											
Plymouth	0	11	4	..	0	15	0	..	0	15	9
Poole											
Portsmouth—											
High Street											
St. Thomas' Street											
Preston	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Pudsey											
Rawtenstall	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Reading											
Ringwood	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
Rivington	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Rochdale											
Rotherham	0	10	6	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
Rushall											
St. Helens	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0

	1919-20			1920-21			1921-22		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Scarborough	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Selby									
Sheffield—									
Attercliffe	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Upper Chapel	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Unity Church	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Shepton Mallet									
Shrewsbury									
Sidmouth	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Southampton	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Southend									
Southport	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
South Shields									
Stalybridge	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Stand				1	1	0	1	1	0
Stannington									
Stockport	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees				0	10	6	0	10	6
Stourbridge	1	1	0				1	1	0
Styal	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Sunderland	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	9	0
Tamworth	0	10	6	1	1	0	(1920/22)		
Taunton									
Tavistock									
Tenterden	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Todmorden	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Torquay	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Trowbridge									
Wakefield	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Wallasey	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Walmsley									
Walsall	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Walthamstow	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Wareham									
Warrington	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
Warwick									
West Bromwich	0	5	0	0	5	0			
West Kirby							0	10	0
Whitby	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Wolverhampton									
York				0	10	6	0	10	6

£141 14 9 £142 15 8 £148 11 9

30
WALES.

	1919-20			1920-21			1921-22		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aberdare—									
Highland Place	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Old Meeting	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Aberystwith	0	8	9	0	8	11	0	10	6
Allt-y-placa									
Bridgend									
Bwlch-y-fadfa	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Caeronen	0	5	6	0	5	0			
Capel-y-bryn									
Capel-y-groes				0	6	0	0	6	0
Cardiff	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Carmarthen									
Cefn-coed	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ciliau									
Clydach Vale									
	(1918/20)								
Cribyn	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Cwmbach									
Dowlais									
Gellionen									
Lampeter	0	5	0				1	0	0
Llandyssul									
Llwynrhydowen	0	7	0	0	7	6	0	7	6
Merthyr Tydfil									
Newport (Mon.)									
Nottage									
Panteg									
Pantydefaid									
Pentre	1	1	0						
	(1919-21)								
Pontypridd				0	10	0	0	5	0
Rhydygwin									
Swansea	1	0	0	(1918/20)					
Sychbant	0	2	6						
Trebanos									
Wick									

£6 15 9 £4 18 5 £5 10 0

SCOTLAND.

	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	0 10 6 ..	(1920/22) 1 1 0	
Dundee			
Edinburgh	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6 ..	0 10 6
Glasgow—			
Ross Street			
St. Vincent Street	1 0 0 ..	1 0 0 ..	1 0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2 1 0	£1 10 6 ..	£2 11 6

IRELAND.

[illegible]

	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Holywood			
Killinchy			
Larne			
Moirá			
Moneyrea			
Newry			
Newtownards			
Rademon			
Raloo			
Ravara			
Templepatrick			
Warrenpoint			

£5 14 0	£5 3 0	£4 18 0
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ASSEMBLIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

B. L. of Unitarian Women .	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers' Union.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Eastern Union	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
East Cheshire Union.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Liverpool Dis. M. Assn.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	3	3	0
London Dis. U. Society	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Manchester Dis. Assn. of P. & U. Churches	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Midland Christian Union ...	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Nat. Unitarian Temp. Assn. .	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Non-Subscribing Presbyter- terian Church of Ireland..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
N. and E. Lancs. U.M.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
N. Mid. P. and U. Assn.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Northum. & Durham Unit. Association	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Prov. Assem. of Lancs. and Cheshire	5	5	0	..	5	5	0	..	5	5	0
Prov. Assn. of London and S.E. Counties	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Scottish Unit. Association ..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Sheffield and District Assn. Churches	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0

	1919-20				1920-21				1921-22		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Southern Unitarian Assn. . .	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
S. Wales Unit. Assn.	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Western Union	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Yorkshire Union	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
	£26 5 0				£26 5 0				£28 7 0		

PERSONAL.

Aspand, Mrs. L. M.	1	1	0								
Bishop, Rev. J. W.	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Burgess, Rev. W. H.	0	2	0	..	0	2	0	..	0	2	6
Carpenter, Rev. Dr. J. E.	2	2	0	..	2	2	0	..	2	2	0
Chify, Charles W.	0	10	0	..	0	10	0	..	0	10	0
Chitty, Edward	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Crook, Arthur T.	0	10	0	..				..
Greg, H. P.	2	2	0	..	2	2	0	..	2	2	0
Jones, David J.	0	10	6	..	0	10	6	..	0	10	6
Kinson, J.	0	2	6	..	0	2	6	..	0	2	6
Monks, F. W.	1	1	0	..	2	2	0	(1920/22)			
Peaston, Rev. A. G.	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..	0	5	0
Rattray, Rev. Dr.	0	5	0	..	0	5	0	..			
Robinson, T. Fletcher	1	1	0	..	1	1	0	..	1	1	0
Scruton, Rev. A.	0	5	0	..				..
Warnock, Rev. H.	0	2	6	..	0	2	6	..	0	2	6
	£11 5 6			..	10 10 6				£8 4 0		

SUMMARY.

Congregations.....	£156	5	6		£154	7	7		£161	11	3
Assemblies & Associations	26	5	0		26	5	0		28	7	0
Personal	11	5	6		10	10	6		8	4	0
	£193 16 0				£191 3 1				£198 2 3		

RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*As adopted at Leicester in 1900, and amended at Oxford in 1906,
at Bolton in 1909, and at Birmingham in 1912.*

1. This Conference shall be called 'The National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian, and other non-subscribing or kindred Congregations.' It shall meet at least once in every three years.

2. The following persons shall be members of the Conference and entitled to vote at all its meetings :—

- (a) The minister or ministers of each congregation on the roll of the Conference.
- (b) Two delegates from each congregation on the roll.
(It is understood that hospitality can be offered to one only.)
- (c) One delegate from each of the Societies enumerated in Rule 7.
- (d) Ministers not in charge of congregations whose names are contained in the last Essex Hall Year Book.
- (e) The Principal and all Professors on the permanent staff of Carmarthen College, Manchester College, Oxford, and the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.
- (f) All officers and members of the Committee.
- (g) All past Presidents.
- (h) All Preachers of the Conference Sermon.
- (i) Any other person who may be elected a member by resolution passed at any Triennial Conference. Such membership shall continue for the period named in the resolution, or, if no period be named therein, for seven years.

3. The Secretary shall keep a roll or list of the congregations and societies that are entitled to send representative to a Conference. Any congregation or society not on the roll may apply in writing for admission after due notice has

been given on the Agenda Paper. Such application shall in the first place be considered by the Committee, which may, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of the members present, at once place the name of such congregation or society on the roll. If two-thirds of the members of Committee present do not vote in favour of such resolution, the Committee shall not have power to add the name of such congregation or society to the roll. But the Committee may by a simple majority pass a resolution recommending the Conference to do so.

4. Any member of the Conference who has given at least twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention, may propose at any Triennial Conference a resolution that the name of any congregation or society be added to the roll, or that any person be elected a member of the Conference under Rule 2 (*i*). Any such resolution may also be proposed on behalf of the Committee, in which case it shall be sufficient if notice of it be given in or with the report of the Committee. In either case, such resolution must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

5. The business of the Conference, subject to any directions given at any meeting of the Conference, shall be managed by the Committee and the Officers. The Committee shall decide what papers shall be read and what resolutions shall be moved at each Triennial Conference.

6. The Committee shall consist of :—(*a*) Representatives chosen by the Societies enumerated in Rule 7. (*b*) Fifteen persons to be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference. (*c*) Not more than six persons who may be elected from time to time by co-optation by those elected under clauses *a* and *b*. The Committee shall go out of office at the conclusion of each Triennial Conference.

7. Each of the following Societies shall have the right under Rule 6 (*a*), to elect a representative to serve on the Committee. The Secretary of each Society shall forward the

name of its representative to the Secretary of the Conference at least ten days before the assembling of each Triennial Conference.

ENGLAND : The Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association for Missionary purposes.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

The Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

The Liverpool District Missionary Association.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

The East Cheshire Christian Union for Missionary purposes.

The North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.

The Midland Christian Union of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and other Non-subscribing Churches.

The Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Provincial Assembly of London and the South Eastern Counties.

The London District Unitarian Society.

The Southern Unitarian Association.

The North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Sheffield and District Association of Churches.

The General Baptist Assembly.

The Manchester College, Oxford.

The Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association.
The Sunday School Association.

The Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers' Union.

The British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women.

The Conference Union for Social Service.

The National Unitarian Temperance Association.

The Missionary Conference.

WALES : The South Wales Unitarian Association.

The South-East Wales Unitarian Society.

The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

SCOTLAND : The Scottish Unitarian Association.

IRELAND : The Presbytery of Antrim.

The Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.

The United Presbytery or Synod of Munster.

The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians.

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Any Society not enumerated in Rule 7 may apply in writing to the Secretary to be so enumerated, and such application shall be considered by the Conference at its next Triennial Meeting, provided that the application has been received not later than the preceding December 31st. The Conference may by a resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to such application.

8. The fifteen persons to be elected by the members under Rule 6 (*b*) shall be nominated in the following manner :— Every congregation on the roll, and every Society enumerated in Rule 7, shall be notified that it may nominate some one person, who need not be a member of the congregation or society nominating, to serve on the Committee. The expiring Committee may also, if they think fit, nominate not more than six persons—not being members of the expiring Committee—

to serve on the new Committee. All such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the assembling of the Conference. He shall then prepare a list of the persons nominated, showing by whom each person is nominated, and shall cause the same to be printed and delivered to each member as soon as possible after his arrival in the town in which the Conference is held. No one whose name does not appear on such list shall be elected on the committee under Rule 6 (b), except by a unanimous vote of the members present.

9. From the persons nominated in accordance with Rule 8, fifteen shall be elected in the following manner:—The President or other Chairman of the Meeting shall appoint Scrutineers. Each member shall make, on his copy of the list of persons nominated, a cross opposite the names of the persons for whom he intends to vote. The Scrutineers, if members, may vote. No member may vote for more than fifteen persons to serve on the Committee. Each member shall then sign his list with his name and address, and hand it as his voting paper to the Scrutineers. If any member who has been present during any portion of the Conference is compelled to leave before the Business Meeting, he may lodge his voting paper, duly signed, with the Secretary, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed 'To the Scrutineers'; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to hand the same to the Scrutineers on behalf of such member.

10. The Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper which is not signed by a member, every voting paper on which more than fifteen names (of those nominated for Committee) are marked, and every voting paper which is in their opinion unintelligible or equivocal. They shall then count the votes, and the Chairman shall announce the result to the meeting. The voting papers shall then be destroyed by the Secretary.

11. The Officers of the Conference shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, one or more Secretaries (Honorary or paid), and two Auditors. The Officers

shall be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference, and shall hold office till the conclusion of the next Triennial Conference. Honorary Officers shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

12. It shall be the duty of the expiring Committee to submit to each Triennial Conference the names of persons whom they deem qualified, and whom they have ascertained to be willing, to serve as Officers of the Conference. Any member present at any Triennial Conference may propose any other person for any office, and the vote shall be taken at the Business meeting by show of hands.

13. The Committee may fill up any vacancy which may occur on the Committee or in any office through death, absence, resignation, or from any other cause.

14. The Committee shall hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the congregations and societies on the roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects, or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.

15. At each Triennial Conference the Committee shall present to the members a full report of its proceedings and of the action which it has taken, for the approval or otherwise of the Conference. A copy of such report shall be forwarded ten days at least before the assembling of each Triennial Conference to every member whose name and address is then known to the Secretary. It shall state the general nature of any resolution (other than formal or usual business) which is to be proposed on behalf of the Committee at the approaching conference.

16. These Rules may be varied or repealed, or new Rules made, at any Triennial Conference by a resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Unless such resolution is to be moved on behalf of the Committee, notice of the proposed alteration

or addition must be sent to the Secretary twenty-eight days at least before the assembling of the Conference. In either case, notice of the resolution must be given in or with the report of the Committee. Notice of any other resolution proposed to be moved at the Business Meeting must reach the Secretary two days at least before the assembling of each Conference.

NOTE.—The following Resolution, adopted at Oxford in 1906, though not embodied in the Rules, is important :—

‘That the Congregations on the Roll be urgently requested to make an annual contribution towards meeting the ordinary expenses of the Conference.’

V. 13

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian,
Presbyterian, and other
Non-subscribing or Kindred Congregations.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE, ETC.

Presented at Leeds,

April, 1920.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1915-20.

President : *Mr. HUGH R. RATHBONE, M.A.

Vice-Presidents :

Rev. Dr. J. E. CARPENTER.
Rev. H. E. DOWSON, B.A.
*Rev. JAMES HARWOOD, B.A.
Dr. W. BLAKE ODGERS, K.C.
Rev. JOSEPH WOOD.
*Mr. F. W. MONKS, J.P.

Treasurer : *Mr. T. FLETCHER ROBINSON.

Auditors : Messrs. G. R. BRACE and C. SYDNEY JONES, M.A.

Secretary : *Rev. C. M. WRIGHT, M.A., 'Northcote,
Mines Avenue, Aigburth, Liverpool.

Committee :

Elected Members :

Rev. JOHN ELLIS.	Rev. W. W. C. POPE.
Rev. E. D. P. EVANS.	Rev. C. ROPER, B.A.
Rev. F. K. FREESTON.	Rev. C. J. STREET, M.A., LL.B.
Rev. Dr. H. GOW.	Mr. A. S. THEW.
Rev. ALFRED HALL, M.A., B.D.	Rev. J. M. LLOYD THOMAS.
Mrs. SYDNEY MARTINEAU.	Mr. J. WIGLEY.
Rev. J. A. PEARSON.	Miss M. K. WINSER.

Co-opted Members :

Rev. R. N. CROSS, M.A.	Mr. J. T. PERRY.
Mr. E. O. DODGSON.	Mr. T. OLIVER LEE, M.A.
Mr. RONALD P. JONES, M.A.	Mr. GOMAR L. THOMAS.

Representative Members :

Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association.
—Rev. W. H. LAMBELLE.
Yorkshire Unitarian Union.—Mr. G. E. VERITY.
Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire.—Mr. T.
FLETCHER ROBINSON.
North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.—Rev. J. J.
WRIGHT.

- Liverpool District Missionary Association.—Rev. Dr. MELLOR.
- Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.—Mr. G. W. R. WOOD, J.P.
- East Cheshire Christian Union.—Mr. J. HALL BROOKS.
- North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.—
*Rev. SIMON JONES, B.A.
- Midland Christian Union.—Mr. W. BYNG KENRICK, M.A.
- Eastern Union.—
- Provincial Assembly of London and South Eastern Counties.—
*Rev. A. H. DOLPHIN.
- London District Unitarian Society.—Mr. A. A. TAYLER.
- Southern Unitarian Association.—Rev. H. S. SOLLY, M.A.
- North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.—
Mrs. HALSTEAD.
- Western Union.—Rev. RUDOLF DAVIS, B.A.
- Sheffield and District Association.—*Mr. W. E. TAYLER.
- General Baptist Assembly.—Rev. C. A. GINEVER, B.A.
- Manchester College.—Mr. H. P. GREG, M.A.
- Unitarian Home Missionary College. — Rev. DENDY AGATE, B.A.
- British and Foreign Unitarian Association.—Rev. W. G. TARRANT, B.A.
- Sunday School Association.—Mr. ION PRITCHARD.
- Central Postal Mission.—Rev. F. HANKINSON.
- British League of Unitarian Women.—Mrs. BLAKE ODGERS.
- Conference Union for Social Service.—*Rev. H. H. JOHNSON, B.A.
- National Unitarian Temperance Association. — *Mr. J. BREDALL.
- Missionary Conference.—Rev. W. T. BUSHROD.
- South Wales Unitarian Association.—Rev. T. ARTHUR THOMAS.
- South-East Wales Unitarian Society.—Rev. W. J. PHILLIPS.
- Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.—Mr. HAROLD BAILY.
- Scottish Unitarian Association.—Mrs. J. BARLOW.
- Presbytery of Antrim.—
- Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.—Rev. J. H. BIBBY.
- Synod of Munster.—Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A.
- Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, etc., Association.—Rev. J. J. MAGILL, B.A.
- Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.—Rev. G. J. SLIPPER.

**Appointed during the Triennial Term.*

Sketch of the History of the Conference.

The National Conference has gradually grown into what we know it to be to-day. At a meeting of the Council of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1881, a Committee was appointed 'to make arrangements for a meeting of Ministers and Laymen for Religious Fellowship and Conference in some district in England.' It was agreed that such meeting be held in Liverpool in the following year, and 'invitations were first issued to all Ministers and Congregations in the Unitarian Almanac, and to the leading Laymen of the Body, with a Postscript asking for the names of Ministers and others to whom it was thought desirable that circulars should be sent.' The widest possible basis was desired. Advertisements offering circulars of invitation were inserted in Papers like *The Christian World*, *The Freeman*, *The Nonconformist*, and *The Independent*. Well-known leaders outside Unitarian circles were asked to take part in the meeting, but the only one to respond to the invitation seems to have been the Rev. Joseph Wood, then Congregational Minister at Leicester, who has since rendered splendid service to the Conference, notably as its President (1906-1909).

The remarkable success of the Liverpool meetings, as regards both numbers and enthusiasm, led to similar meetings being held in Birmingham in 1885, and since then they have been held triennially, except during the war. The meetings have always been open to all comers, but practical considerations of accommodation, combined with a desire to give the Conference a representative character, caused *personal* invitations to be limited to Ministers and definitely appointed Delegates from Congregations and Societies. A further step was taken at a special meeting held in London in 1898, when it was resolved that the Committee of the Conference, having been constituted on a basis to represent the various Congregations and Associations which compose the Conference, 'be instructed to hold regular meetings to consult, and, when considered advisable, to take action in matters affecting the

well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies which form the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects ; or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the 'Conference.' Thus the Conference has gradually become the recognized organ of our Churches. Without seeking to exercise anything in the way of ecclesiastical authority, it is always striving to draw the Churches more closely to each other in the bonds of fellowship and to make them stronger through and for mutual helpfulness.

What has it actually done in this way ? In the first place, its Triennial Meetings have aroused and strengthened the sense of common aims and needs and duties. They have brought together representatives from every part of the Kingdom—many of them holding the fort in lonely places—to confer on matters of importance, to be quickened by the Preacher's or Speaker's word, and the collective voice of Praise and Prayer.

But more than this, the Conference has initiated several important movements and Societies. The Sustentation Fund for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, which now has a capital of over £83,000 and distributed last year £3,800, was founded at the first meeting, and was greatly enlarged as the result of the meeting in 1912. This was followed in 1902 by the MINISTERS' PENSION AND INSURANCE FUND, which possesses a capital of £23,045 15s. 1d., and enables more than one-third of our Ministers to make some provision for old age and death. By the generous benefactions of the late Mr. Philip Holt, a further capital of £11,043 11s. 6d. is administered by the Managers, being utilized partly to strengthen the General Fund and largely to assist Ministers in making some Educational Provision for their children.

The Conference has also been the means of establishing ADVISORY COMMITTEES throughout England and Wales, whose chief object is to enquire into the credentials of men desiring to enter our ministry who have not passed through one of our Colleges. There are five such Committees, and the importance and delicacy of their duties are indicated by the number of applications with which they deal. Then, there is the MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS BOARD, whose services are at the disposal of any Congregation or Minister desiring a settlement. The need for this Board is shown by the frequency with which its help is sought. The function of the COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF

MINISTERS is indicated by its title, and none is of greater concern to the welfare of our Churches. The Committee has organized and is working a Scheme of Study to assist men possessing essential gifts for the ministry, but lacking early training.

The GUILDS' UNION, to encourage young people to band themselves together for religious objects, and the SOCIAL SERVICE UNION, to arouse in the Churches a deeper interest in the pressing social problems of the day, further illustrate the wide scope of Conference interest. At the forthcoming Meetings an important recommendation will be made for increasing (in consequence of the war) Ministers' Stipends, and assisting in the education of their children.

It will thus be seen that the NATIONAL CONFERENCE has not only an honourable past, but also a future, which entitles it to the loyal support of all who are interested in our Churches.

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS have been held at the following places :

1882—Liverpool.	1900—Leicester.
1885—Birmingham.	1903—Liverpool.
1888—Leeds.	1906—Oxford.
1891—London.	1909—Bolton.
1894—Manchester.	1912—Birmingham.
1897—Sheffield.	1915—London.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

1915—1920

THE first word of this belated ' Triennial ' Report must be one of profound thankfulness that the world once more is at comparative peace, after a great victory gained for Freedom, Justice and Righteousness. This is the supreme fact that stands out clear from the tumult of feelings caused by looking either backward or forward. The price of victory in suffering and loss of every kind during the four and a half years of War was truly appalling, and the problems to be faced in the coming years are indeed vast and complex. But neither one nor the other should cause us to forget the alternative from which our heroic men saved us, or the sort of world in which we should have been condemned to live had the result of the War been reversed. That we have been spared such a calamity is reason for meeting the calls of the new time in a spirit worthy of those who have

preserved our liberty at a great price. We are as men who have passed through fire, and yet have been saved. After what has been achieved and endured, we, filled with the inspiration of heroic memories, can face the future with courage and faith.

Naturally, since the last meeting of the Conference in London in 1915, the War has dominated everything else. When it is remembered that (according to 'Essex Hall' records) upwards of 10,000 members of our congregations and Sunday schools (including many of the most active ones) joined H.M.'s Forces; that of these about 1,000 have made the supreme sacrifice, causing sorrow in almost as many homes and family circles; that very many others have been wounded or disabled by sickness or made prisoners; that of those left at home large numbers have been engaged in War work of various kinds, while all were subject to many restrictions, it will be readily understood that it was impossible to maintain the usual standard of religious activities. Thus it was impracticable to arrange for the Triennial meetings of the Conference when they were due in 1918, and the number of Committee meetings had to be reduced. Individual Congregations and District Associations had, most of them, to limit their operations. Probably in most congregations the numbers attending the ordinary services which, at the beginning of the War seemed to increase, tended during its progress to decrease. This experience has been by no means peculiar to

our own churches. Various explanations are suggested as causes—pre-occupation of mind, overstrain during the week, decline of religious faith among certain sections of the people. It is gratifying to note, however, that there has been a revival of interest in some quarters since the Armistice.

It is too soon yet to speak with confidence of the future, but it is instructive and encouraging to learn from several of our ministers who have been engaged in Y.M.C.A. work in France that among men at the front, whose indifference to what may be called official Christianity has been widely acknowledged, there was a ready response to those who appeal to the fundamental trusts of the soul and present Jesus Christ as a religious leader. God and the soul remain, whatever modifications may be made in dogmatic creeds and ecclesiastical institutions. This surely points to a great duty and opportunity for our churches. Without attempting to exploit a world crisis for any small sectarian interest, they are called upon not to hide under a bushel what may be a light to many who otherwise must walk in darkness.

In order to supply the need which had been felt for some body with power to act in cases of emergency which arise between meetings of the Committee, a special Emergency Committee, consisting of the Officers, including the Vice-Presidents, was appointed, with instructions to report its proceedings to the next meeting of the Committee. This policy has been

found to work well, and it is suggested to the Conference that the Committee should be authorized to appoint some such Emergency Committee for the future.

The Committee on the Supply of Ministers has steadily pursued its course. From time to time it has had before it the necessity of both improving and increasing the supply of ministers; and it desires again to impress upon the Conference the vital importance of this question, which has become still more urgent in this period of re-construction. When an adequate supply of candidates for the ministry has been secured, the next point is to devise the best means of preparing them for their calling. This also has engaged the attention of the Committee, with helpful communications from the Principals of the Colleges at Oxford, Manchester and Carmarthen.

Under the scheme of Lay Workers, since the last meeting of the Conference, ten candidates, duly recommended by Advisory Committees, after passing the prescribed annual examinations and spending the prescribed years of probation in charge of a congregation, have been received into the regular ministry. It should be clearly understood that it is not the object of the Committee to encourage men to become Lay Workers who can possibly take the fuller preparation offered by our Colleges. It is only for the exceptional cases of those who have special gifts for the ministry, but cannot take a College course that

this arrangement was made. And it has doubly justified itself—first, by increasing the efficiency of several ; secondly, by discouraging in time others who, in desiring to enter the ministry, had evidently mistaken their vocation. The requirements have been made more stringent by the addition of two other subjects of study. One of these was suggested by the Sunday School Association, with the object of preparing ministers for a very important part of their work—the religious training of the young. In arranging and conducting this course, the Committee received valuable help from Mr. Frank Roscoe, the well-known expert in the art of teaching.

It may be appropriately mentioned here that the scheme for increasing Ministerial Stipends, initiated by the Conference at its meetings in Birmingham, was completed, as originally intended, at the end of five years in 1917. By that time the resources of the Sustentation Fund had been augmented by a capital sum of more than £52,000, as well as by new or increased annual subscriptions of £109. Only one promised donation now remains unpaid, and there is hope that this may eventually be received. Thanks to this splendid result, the managers of the Fund have been able, not only to increase permanently the stipends of many of our ministers, but also, in conjunction with the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, to provide a special bonus for those who have been among the principal, though silent, sufferers from the War.

Within the last year, however, it has become clear that in order to meet the necessities of the times, the whole scale of Ministerial Stipends must be raised. This is a matter primarily for the individual congregations, several of which have already recognized their obligations. But there are many which, with the best will in the world, cannot meet the requirements of the case, and for them some united effort is needed. The Committee appointed representatives to act with others from the Sustentation Fund, the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the Ministers' Stipend Augmentation Fund, the Irish Sustentation Fund, the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund, and the Ministers' Benevolent Society.

The Joint Conference, thus constituted, went carefully into the whole question, making calculations, on information furnished about Stipends paid, as to what amount would be needed by way of Subvention to bring up the smaller Stipends, where needful conditions were fulfilled, to a reasonable minimum in view of the altered conditions. It was unanimously agreed that for Great Britain a Subvention Fund of £10,000 would be required, adequately to effect this purpose, to be expended over a period of seven years, at the end of which time, it is hoped, the financial situation may be somewhat eased. Ireland is raising an additional Sustentation Fund of its own.

Another question, closely connected with the foregoing, had engaged the attention of the Com-

mittee of the National Conference before the Stipend problem became so acute, viz., the Education of Ministers' children. Other denominations deal with the problem by establishing special schools or special funds, and among ourselves it has hitherto called forth much private generosity in individual cases. Recently the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund has utilized part of the late Mr. Philip Holt's benefactions to assist ministers in taking out insurance policies for Children's Educational Endowment, and already many ministers have availed themselves of this opportunity. But what is now required is a more complete and systematic provision for a well-recognized need. The Committee cordially adopted a scheme which had been carefully prepared by a special Subcommittee after consultation with the authorities of Willaston and Channing House Schools and of the Philip Holt Fund. Through this last Fund it is expected that within ten years all ministers will have have been able to make *some* provision for the education of their children (daughters as well as sons). But to tide them over the intervening years, to deal with cases where insurance is not possible, and afterwards to supplement the Philip Holt Fund by transfer of the whole of the capital, to be used by that Fund for the education of ministers' children, the Committee felt that a capital fund of £10,000 (or its equivalent in annual subscriptions guaranteed for a number of years) should be raised. Two special reasons may be urged in support. First,

ministers, as a rule, cannot look forward to making much provision for their families, and, therefore, it is all the more necessary that the latter should be well equipped educationally for honourable careers. Secondly, from the point of view of the community, whose interest it is to develop its resources of all kinds, the sons and daughters of the Manse may fairly be expected to prove a valuable asset. Brought up with simple tastes and habits and yet in an atmosphere of culture, they possess just that combination which should enable them to turn to the best account any educational advantages placed within their reach.

The Joint Conference on Stipends took this matter also into consideration, and cordially endorsed the decision of the Committee to make this appeal, realizing that help thus given would make a desirable differentiation between unmarried or childless ministers and those upon whom the extra burden of educating children was laid. This could not well be done by means of a Subvention Fund working towards a Minimum Stipend, which should be paid to a minister, regardless of family claims, in recognition of services rendered ; but if an Education Fund made an annual allowance of so much per child the difference by way of financial obligation could be to some extent met.

On consideration of the whole subject, therefore, in all its bearings, the Joint Conference decided to issue an immediate appeal for the sum of Twenty

Thousand Pounds, partly for Subvention towards raising the smaller stipends, and partly for Children's Education. The first Eight Thousand Pounds is to be devoted to the Subvention Fund, which will be spent within the next seven years. The second Eight Thousand Pounds will be employed as Capital, the interest of which will be expended on Education. Anything beyond these amounts will be equally divided between the two funds, unless specially allocated by the donors. At the end of the ten years' period the capital of the Education Fund will be handed over to the Philip Helt Fund to be utilized for this specific purpose. The Committee cordially approves of this double appeal, and commends it heartily to the generosity of the members of our churches, fully realizing its responsibility. Nothing but a strong conviction of what is due to our ministers and their families and of the altered conditions due to the War, would justify another appeal to the liberality of our people so soon after the splendid response they made a few years ago in raising an enlarged Sustentation Fund.

The Ministerial Settlements Board has continued to render valuable service to congregations in want of ministers and to ministers desiring pulpits. Though during the war there was a natural desire on the part of both ministers and congregations not to disturb existing settlements, yet since the last Conference there have been 50 entries of ministers and 33 of congregations on the lists of the Board.

In many cases the Board has received grateful acknowledgments from both parties for unions which it was able to bring about. The alteration of rule, all but unanimously approved at the last Triennial Meetings, by which the Board was authorized when recommending ministers, to select not only from its own list, but from the list in the Essex Hall Year Book, has worked well.

Feeling the importance of enlisting the interest of the young people in our churches and providing for their religious nurture, the Committee requested the late President (Rev. Dr. Hargrove) and the Rev. Joseph Wood to prepare an Address on Confirmation or Dedication Services. This was widely circulated, and has encouraged many ministers to institute such services.

Further, a Public Worship Committee has been appointed with a view

- (1) To improve the music and musical arrangements of Church Mission and other Services.
- (2) To prepare such special Forms of Service as may be required by the public or other circumstances of the time.
- (3) To advise, when requested, ministers and congregations on these and kindred matters relating to Public Worship.

So far the Committee (with the Rev. Joseph Wood as Chairman) has chiefly been concerned with preparing special Forms of Service during the War. But,

doubtless, further opportunities will arise as the pre-occupations of the War yield to more normal ways of life.

In connection with the War, a very large edition of the memorable address, 'Ethical Problems of the War,' delivered by Professor Gilbert Murray at the Triennial Meetings in 1915, was printed and circulated. Special Services of Commemoration, Consecration, and Thanksgiving have been commended to the churches from time to time, and Forms of Service have been prepared and largely used. Appeals have been issued on behalf of Mrs. Bernard Allen's Belgian Fund and of the Red Cross and St. John of Jerusalem Funds. A letter to the churches was issued, signed by the President, pressing for the enforcement of the present restrictions on Drink Traffic after the War; the churches have been urged to prepare themselves for the difficulties and opportunities which face them in what is largely a changed world; support has been given to the League of Nations; a Special Committee has been formed to give advice with regard to War Memorials; and a strong appeal has been made to our young people, urging them to consider the claims and opportunities of the Ministry, when choosing their careers in life.

There have been fewer changes than usual in the Roll of the Conference. The Little Portland Street (London) Congregation with its specially sacred and inspiring associations, has disappeared, and the smaller causes at Boston Mills, Braintree, Garston,

and Broughton, which were most of them languishing when the 1915 Report was issued, have also been closed.

The Walthamstow and Mexborough Congregations have been added to the list.

The Committee has had to mourn the loss of its distinguished President, the Rev. Charles Hargrove, Litt.D., who, after singularly varied religious experiences in early life, settled more than forty years ago as Minister of the Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, and became the devoted friend of all our churches and institutions. Three Vice-Presidents, Mr. James R. Beard, Sir William Bowring, Bart., and Mr. Howard Chatfeild Clark, well-known and highly esteemed throughout our churches, have also passed away. Vacant places have been left in our ranks by the death of many other well-tried friends, who at different times, have rendered conspicuous and valuable services to the Conference and to the churches which it represents.

Several changes have taken place among the Officers during the term. On the sudden death of Dr. Hargrove in June, 1918, his immediate predecessor, Mr. Hugh R. Rathbone, at the request of the Committee, agreed to resume the Presidency. Mr. F. W. Monks, who had rendered most valuable services as Treasurer since 1912, especially in connection with the laborious work entailed by the Sustentation Fund appeal, felt compelled to resign his office in June, 1919. The Committee elected him

a Vice-President, and Mr. T. Fletcher Robinson was appointed his successor.

The Committee learned last year with great regret that reasons of health compelled the Rev. James Harwood to lay down the office of Secretary which he had held since 1905. During this period the work of the Conference, as the preceding report shows, has continually increased. Mr. Harwood brought to it a cultured mind, a ripe experience, and effective business qualities. His large acquaintance with our congregations, his deep sense of the value of the religious principles which they exist to maintain and exemplify, his urbanity and tact, his sympathy with our ministers, and his desire to promote their efficiency and welfare, have given a very high value to his co-operation in meeting the expanding demands upon the Conference. His labours in all the various activities delegated to its Committees, especially in the collection of the last great Fund, have been untiring. The Committee hopes still to have the benefit of his counsel as a Vice-President, and in making its grateful acknowledgment of his services it trusts that his health may be reinvigorated for many coming years.

Rev. C. M. Wright, M.A., of the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth, Liverpool, was appointed his successor.

HUGH R. RATHBONE, President.

ROLL OF THE CHURCHES

With Amounts contributed by each.

ENGLAND.

	1915-16			1916-17			1917-18			1918-19		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Accrington	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
	0	10	6									
Ainsworth				1	1	0				0	15	0
Allostock												
Altrincham	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Ansdell.....												
Ashton-under-Lyne .												
Astley	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Atherstone												
Banbury												
Barnard Castle												
Bath	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Bedfield												
Bedford												
Belper	0	7	0	0	6	6	0	7	2	0	7	0
Bessel's Green.....												
Billingshurst	0	5	0				0	5	0			
							0	5	0			
Birkenhead	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Birmingham—												
Ch. of the Messiah.	7	17	7	10	4	9	9	16	0	9	0	6
	11	15	9									
Fazeley Street.....												
Hurst Street	0	10	0							0	10	0
Newhall Hill												
Old Meeting	7	3	10	4	16	6	5	15	9	5	14	10
Small Heath												
Blackburn	0	5	0				0	5	0	0	5	0
							0	5	0			
Blackpool—												
North Shore, Bank												
Street	0	5	0				0	5	0	0	5	0
South Shore							0	5	0	0	5	0

	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coventry			0 5 0	0 5 0
Cradley				
Crediton				
Crewe				
Crewkerne	0 10 0	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Croft.....				
Croydon—				
Dennett Hall				
Wellesley Road ...				
Cullompton	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 10 0	0 10 0
Darlington	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Deal				
Dean Row	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Denton.....			0 10 6	0 10 6
Derby	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Devonport				
Dewsbury				
Diss				
Ditchling				
Doncaster	0 10 6			
Dover	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Dudley	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Dukinfield	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Elland				
Evesham	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Exeter	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Filby				
Flagg				
Framlingham				
Frenchay	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	
Gainsborough				
Gateacre				
Gateshead				
Gee Cross.....	3 3 0	3 3 0	3 3 0	3 3 0
Glossop	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Gloucester	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Godalming				
Great Hucklow				
Great Yarmouth ...	0 10 6			
Guildford				
Hale	0 10 6		0 10 6	0 10 6
			0 10 6	
Halifax				

	1915-16			1916-17			1917-18			1918-19		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Halstead												
Hapton												
Hastings				1	7	6	2	0	0	1	16	6
Heywood	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Hinckley	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Hindley				1	1	0				0	5	0
										0	5	0
Horsham	0	10	0	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Horwich												
Huddersfield												
Hull	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hyde (Flowery Field)												
Idle												
Ilford												
Ilkeston												
Ilminster	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Ipswich	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kendal												
Kidderminster												
Kingswood												
Kirkstead												
Knutsford												
Lancaster												
Leeds—												
Holbeck	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Hunslet												
Mill Hill	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
Leicester—												
Great Meeting.....	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0
Narborough Road.	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Leigh	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lewes	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lincoln.....												
Liscard.....	0	10	6	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	6
Liverpool—												
Ancient Chapel ...	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Bond Street												
Garston												
Hamilton Road ...												
Hope Street	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Mill Street	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Ullet Road	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0

	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Manchester (continued)—				
Cross Street.....	5 5 0	5 5 0	5 5 0	5 5 0
Dob Lane	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Gorton	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Hulme Dom. Missn				
Longsight				
Moss Side				
Oldham Road				
Pendleton ...	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Platt	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Sale	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Swinton	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Upper Brook St. .				
Urmston				
Willert Street				
Mansfield	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Middlesbrough	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Middleton				
Monton	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Moretonhampstead...				
Mossley	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Mottram	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Nantwich.....				
Nelson				
Newark				
Newbury				
Newcastle-on-Tyne .				
Newcastle-und.-Lyme	o 7 1			o 7 9
Newchurch	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Newport, I. of W. ...	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Newton Abbot				
Northampton	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Northiam.....				
Norwich	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Nottingham—				
Christ Chruch				
High Pavement ...	3 5 5	3 2 9	1 16 9	2 3 9
Oldbury			0 5 0	0 10 6
Oldham	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Oxford	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Padiham	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Park Lane		0 16 8		
Pepperhill				

	1915-16			1916-17			1917-18			1918-19		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Plymouth	0	13	0	0	17	2	0	17	1	0	13	6
Poole	0	10	6									
Portsmouth—												
High Street												
St. Thomas' Street												
Preston												
Pudsey												
Rawtenstall.....	0	5	0									
Reading												
Ringwood	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Rivington				0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
				0	10	6						
Rochdale												
Rotherham	0	10	6	0	10	0	0	10	6	0	10	6
Rushall												
Saffron Walden												
St. Helens	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Scarborough	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Selby												
Sheffield—												
Attercliffe	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Upper Chapel	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Upperthorpe(Unit.)	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Shepton Mallet												
Shrewsbury												
Sidmouth.....	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Southampton	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Southend												
Southport	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
South Shields										0	10	6
Stalybridge	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Stand												
Stannington												
Stockport	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees ...												
Stourbridge	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Styal												
Sunderland	0	5	0	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	5	0
Tamworth												
Taunton.....												
Tavistock												
Tenterden	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Todmorden	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Torquay	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0

	1915-16			1916-17			1917-18			1918-19		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Trowbridge												
Tunbridge Wells												
Wakefield												
Walmsley												
Walsall.....	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Walthamstow												
Wareham.....												
Warrington	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Warwick												
Waterfoot (see New- church)												
West Bromwich	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
West Kirby												
Whitby	0	5	0									
Wolverhampton												
York.....												

WALES.

Aberdare—												
Highland Place ...	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Old Meeting	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Aberystwith	0	7	9	0	7	9	0	8	0	0	8	0
Allt-y-placa	0	2	6									
Bridgend												
Bwlch-y-fadfa	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Caeronen	0	8	2				0	10	0	0	6	6
							0	6	6			
Capel-y-bryn	0	2	6	0	2	6						
Capel-ygroes												
Cardiff	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Carmarthen												
Cem-coed.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ciliau												
Clydach Vale	0	5	0									
Cribyn							0	5	0			
Cwmbach.....												
Dowlais												
Gellionen												
Lampeter.....				1	0	0						
Llandyssul												
Llwynrhydowen	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	7	0

	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Merthy Tydfil.....				
Newport (Mon.)				
Nottage				
Panteg				
Pantydefaid				
Pentre				
Pontypridd	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Rhydygwin				
Swansea	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	
Sychbant	0 8 6	0 2 6	0 2 6	0 2 6
Trebanos				
Wick				

SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Dundee				
Edinburgh	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Glasgow—				
Ross Street				
St. Vincent Street.	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Kirkcaldy				

IRELAND.

Antrim				
Ballee	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Ballycarry				
Ballyclare				
Ballyhemlin				
Ballymoney.....				
Banbridge	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Belfast—				
First Pres.Church.				
All Souls'	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 1 0	
Mountpottinger ...				
Stanhope Street....				
York Street				
Cairncastle	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
				0 5 0
Carrickfergus				
Clonmel				
Clough				

	1915-16			1916-17			1917-18			1918-19		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Comber	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Cork												
Crumlin												
Downpatrick												
Dromore												
Dublin	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Dunmurry	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0			
Glenarm.....												
Grey Abbey												
Holywood												
Killinchy												
Larne												
Moirra												
Moneyrca.....												
Newry												
Newtownards												
Rademon												
Raloo												
Ravara.....												
Templepatrick												
Warrenpoint												
	£155 3 5			£142 5 1			£141 17 0			£139 0 10		

ASSEMBLIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

N. Mid. P. & U. Assn.				1	1	0	1	1	0	11	1	0
B. L. of Un. Women..	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Eastern Union	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
East Cheshire Union.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Liverp'l Dis. M. Assn.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
London Dis. U. Soc.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Manchester Dis. Assn.												
of P. & U. Churches	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Midland Christian U.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Non-Subs. Presbyter-												
ian Ch. of Ireland..	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
N. & E. Lancs. U.M.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Northum. & Durham												
Unit. Association..	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Prov. Assem. of Lancs.												
and Cheshire	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0

been given on the Agenda Paper. Such application shall in the first place be considered by the Committee, which may, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of the members present, at once place the name of such congregation or society on the roll. If two-thirds of the members of Committee present do not vote in favour of such resolution, the Committee shall not have power to add the name of such congregation or society to the roll. But the Committee may by a simple majority pass a resolution recommending the Conference to do so.

4. Any member of the Conference who has given at least twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention, may propose at any Triennial Conference a resolution that the name of any congregation or society be added to the roll, or that any person be elected a member of the Conference under Rule 2 (1). Any such resolution may also be proposed on behalf of the Committee, in which case it shall be sufficient if notice of it be given in or with the report of the Committee. In either case, such resolution must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

5. The business of the Conference, subject to any directions given at any meeting of the Conference, shall be managed by the Committee and the Officers. The Committee shall decide what papers shall be read and what resolutions shall be moved at each Triennial Conference.

6. The Committee shall consist of :—(a) Representatives chosen by the Societies enumerated in Rule 7. (b) Fifteen persons to be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference. (c) Not more than six persons who may be elected from time to time by co-optation by those elected under clauses *a* and *b*. The Committee shall go out of office at the conclusion of each Triennial Conference.

7. Each of the following Societies shall have the right under Rule 6 (a), to elect a representative to serve on the Committee. The Secretary of each Society shall forward the

name of its representative to the Secretary of the Conference at least ten days before the assembling of each Triennial Conference.

ENGLAND : The Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association for Missionary purposes.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

The Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

The Liverpool District Missionary Association.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

The East Cheshire Christian Union for Missionary purposes.

The North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.

The Midland Christian Union of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and other Non-subscribing Churches.

The Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Provincial Assembly of London and the South Eastern Counties.

The London District Unitarian Society.

The Southern Unitarian Association.

The North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Sheffield and District Association of Churches.

The General Baptist Assembly.

The Manchester College, Oxford.

The Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association.
The Sunday School Association.

The Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers Union.

The British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women.

The Conference Union for Social Service.

The National Unitarian Temperance Association.

The Missionary Conference.

WALES : The South Wales Unitarian Association.

The South-East Wales Unitarian Society.

The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

SCOTLAND : The Scottish Unitarian Association.

IRELAND : The Presbytery of Antrim.

The Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.

The United Presbytery or Synod of Munster.

The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians.

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

Any Society not enumerated in Rule 7 may apply in writing to the Secretary to be so enumerated, and such application shall be considered by the Conference at its next Triennial Meeting, provided that the application has been received not later than the preceding December 31st. The Conference may by a resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to such application.

8. The fifteen persons to be elected by the members under Rule 6 (b) shall be nominated in the following manner :— Every congregation on the roll, and every Society enumerated in Rule 7, shall be notified that it may nominate some one person, who need not be a member of the congregation or society nominating, to serve on the Committee. The expiring Committee may also, if they think fit, nominate not more than six persons—not being members of the expiring Committee—to serve on the new Committee. All such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the

assembling of the Conference. He shall then prepare a list of the persons nominated, showing by whom each person is nominated, and shall cause the same to be printed and delivered to each member as soon as possible after his arrival in the town in which the Conference is held. No one whose name does not appear on such list shall be elected on the committee under Rule 6 (b), except by a unanimous vote of the members present.

9. From the persons nominated in accordance with Rule 8, fifteen shall be elected in the following manner:—The President or other Chairman of the Meeting shall appoint Scrutineers. Each member shall make, on his copy of the list of persons nominated, a cross opposite the names of the persons for whom he intends to vote. The Scrutineers, if members, may vote. No member may vote for more than fifteen persons to serve on the Committee. Each member shall then sign his list with his name and address, and hand it as his voting paper to the Scrutineers. If any member who has been present during any portion of the Conference is compelled to leave before the Business Meeting, he may lodge his voting paper, duly signed, with the Secretary, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed 'To the Scrutineers'; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to hand the same to the Scrutineers on behalf of such member.

10. The Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper which is not signed by a member, every voting paper on which more than fifteen names (of those nominated for Committee) are marked, and every voting paper which is in their opinion unintelligible or equivocal. They shall then count the votes, and the Chairman shall announce the result to the meeting. The voting papers shall then be destroyed by the Secretary.

11. The Officers of the Conference shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, one or more Secretaries (Honorary or paid), and two Auditors. The Officers shall be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference, and shall hold office till the conclusion of the next

Triennial Conference. Honorary Officers shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

12. It shall be the duty of the expiring Committee to submit to each Triennial Conference the names of persons whom they deem qualified, and whom they have ascertained to be willing, to serve as Officers of the Conference. Any member present at any Triennial Conference may propose any other person for any office, and the vote shall be taken at the Business meeting by show of hands.

13. The Committee may fill up any vacancy which may occur on the Committee or in any office through death, absence, resignation, or from any other cause.

14. The Committee shall hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the congregations and societies on the roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects, or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.

15. At each Triennial Conference the Committee shall present to the members a full report of its proceedings and of the action which it has taken, for the approval or otherwise of the Conference. A copy of such report shall be forwarded ten days at least before the assembling of each Triennial Conference to every member whose name and address is then known to the Secretary. It shall state the general nature of any resolution (other than formal or usual business) which is to be proposed on behalf of the Committee at the approaching conference.

16. These Rules may be varied or repealed, or new Rules made, at any Triennial Conference by a resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Unless such resolution is to be moved on behalf of the Committee, notice of the proposed alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary twenty-eight days at least before the assembling of the Conference. In either

case, notice of the resolution must be given in or with the report of the Committee. Notice of any other resolution proposed to be moved at the Business Meeting must reach the Secretary two days at least before the assembling of each Conference.

NOTE.—The following Resolution, adopted at Oxford in 1906 though not embodied in the Rules, is important :—

‘That the Congregations on the Roll be urgently requested to make an annual contribution towards meeting the ordinary expenses of the Conference.’

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian,
Presbyterian, and other
Non-subscribing or Kindred Congregations.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE, ETC.

Presented at London,

October, 1915

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1912-15.

President : Mr. HUGH R. RATHBONE, M.A.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. JAS. R. BEARD, J.P.
Sir W. B. BOWRING, Bart.
Rev. Dr. J. E. CARPENTER.
Mr. HOWARD CHATFEILD CLARKE, F.R.I.B.A.
Rev. H. E. DOWSON, B.A.
Dr. W. BLAKE ODGERS, K.C.
Rev. JOSEPH WOOD.

Treasurer : *Mr. F. W. MONKS.

Auditors : MESSRS. G. R. BRACE and C. SYDNEY JONES, M.A.

Secretary : Rev. JAMES HARWOOD, B.A., 60, Howitt Road,
Hampstead, London, N.W.

Committee :

Elected Members :

Rev. DENDY AGATE, B.A.	Rev. CHARLES ROPER, B.A.
Rev. E. D. P. EVANS.	Rev. J. M. LLOYD THOMAS.
Rev. F. K. FREESTON.	Mr. J. C. WARREN, M.A.
Rev. H. GOW, B.A.	Mr. J. HARROP WHITE.
Mr. H. P. GREG, M.A.	Mr. J. WIGLEY.
Rev. ALFRED HALL, M.A.	Mr. L. N. WILLIAMS.

Co-opted Members :

*Rev. R. NICOL CROSS, M.A.	Rev. C. J. STREET, M.A., LL.B.
*Mr. RONALD P. JONES, M.A.	Mr. GROSVENOR TALBOT, J.P.
Mr. GEO. H. LEIGH, J.P.	Mr. A. S. THEW.

Representative Members :

Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association.
—Rev. W. H. LAMBELLE.
Yorkshire Unitarian Union.—Mr. G. E. VERITY.
Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire.—Mr. T.
FLETCHER ROBINSON.

- North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.—Rev. J. J. WRIGHT.
- Liverpool District Missionary Association.—Rev. H. D. ROBERTS.
- Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.—Mr. G. W. R. WOOD, J.P.
- East Cheshire Christian Union.—Mr. J. HALL BROOKS.
- North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.—
*Rev. A. LESLIE SMITH, B.A.
- Midland Christian Union.—Mr. W. BYNG KENRICK, M.A.
- Eastern Union.—*Rev. L. REDFERN, M.A.
- Provincial Assembly of London and South Eastern Counties.—
Rev. W. H. DRUMMOND, B.A.
- London District Unitarian Society.—Rev. W. W. C. POPE.
- Southern Unitarian Association.—Rev. H. S. SOLLY, M.A.
- North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.—
*Rev. MORTIMER ROWE, B.A.
- Western Union.—Rev. RUDOLF DAVIS, B.A.
- Sheffield and District Association.—Rev. A. H. DOLPHIN.
- General Baptist Assembly.—Mr. C. R. W. OFFEN.
- Manchester College.—Rev. Dr. C. HARGROVE.
- Unitarian Home Missionary College.—*Rev. G. A. PAYNE.
- British and Foreign Unitarian Association.—Rev. W. G. TARRANT, B.A.
- Sunday School Association.—Mr. ION PRITCHARD.
- Central Postal Mission.—Mrs. SYDNEY MARTINEAU.
- British League of Unitarian Women.—Miss E. J. SPENCER.
- Conference Union for Social Service.—Rev. J. E. BURGESS.
- Missionary Conference.—Rev. W. T. BUSHROD.
- South Wales Unitarian Association.—Rev. E. GWILYM EVANS, B.A.
- South-East Wales Unitarian Society.—Mr. JNO. LEWIS.
- Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.—Mr. HAROLD BAILY.
- Scottish Unitarian Association.—*Rev. L. TAVENER.
- Presbytery of Antrim.—Rev. H. J. ROSSINGTON, M.A., B.D.
- Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.—Rev. J. H. BIBBY.
- Synod of Munster.—Rev. E. SAVELL HICKS, M.A.
- Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, etc., Association.—Rev. J. A. KELLY.
- Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.—Rev. G. J. SLIPPER

Sketch of the History of the Conference.

The National Conference has gradually grown into what we know it to be to-day. At a meeting of the Council of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1881, a Committee was appointed 'to make arrangements for a meeting of Ministers and Laymen for Religious Fellowship and Conference in some district in England.' It was agreed that such meeting be held in Liverpool in the following year, and 'invitations were first issued to all Ministers and Congregations in the Unitarian Almanac, and to the leading Laymen of the Body, with a Postscript asking for the names of Ministers and others to whom it was thought desirable that circulars should be sent.' The widest possible basis was desired. Advertisements offering circulars of invitation were inserted in Papers like *The Christian World*, *The Freeman*, *The Nonconformist*, and *The Independent*. Well-known leaders outside Unitarian circles were asked to take part in the meeting, but the only one to respond to the invitation seems to have been the Rev. Joseph Wood, then Congregationalist Minister at Leicester, who has since rendered splendid service to the Conference, notably as its President (1906-1909).

The remarkable success of the Liverpool meetings, as regards both numbers and enthusiasm, led to similar meetings being held in Birmingham in 1885, and since then they have been held triennially. The meetings have always been open to all comers, but practical considerations of accommodation, combined with a desire to give the Conference a representative character, caused *personal* invitations to be limited to Ministers and definitely appointed Delegates from Congregations and Societies. A further step was taken at a special meeting held

in London in 1898, when it was resolved that the Committee of the Conference, having been constituted on a basis to represent the various Congregations and Associations which compose the Conference, 'be instructed to hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable, to take action in matters affecting the well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies which form the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects ; or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.' Thus the Conference has gradually become the recognized organ of our Churches. Without seeking to exercise anything in the way of ecclesiastical authority, it is always striving to draw the Churches more closely to each other in the bonds of fellowship and to make them stronger through and for mutual helpfulness.

What has it actually done in this way ? In the first place, its Triennial Meetings have aroused and strengthened the sense of common aims and needs and duties. They have brought together representatives from every part of the Kingdom—many of them holding the fort in lonely places—to confer on matters of importance, to be quickened by the Preacher's or Speaker's word, and the collective voice of Praise and Prayer.

But more than this, the Conference has initiated several important movements and Societies. The Sustentation Fund for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, which now has a capital of over £73,000, and distributed last year £2,315, was founded at the first meeting, and was greatly enlarged as the result of the last meeting in 1912. This was followed in 1902 by the MINISTERS' PENSION AND INSURANCE FUND, which possesses a capital of £25,340, and enables nearly one-third of our Ministers to make some provision for old age and death.

The Conference has also been the means of establishing ADVISORY COMMITTEES throughout England and Wales, whose chief object is to enquire into the credentials of men desiring

to enter our ministry who have not passed through one of our Colleges. There are five such Committees, and the importance and delicacy of their duties are indicated by the fact that one of them during a single year has had to deal with no fewer than 17 applications. Then, there is the MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS BOARD, whose services are at the disposal of any Congregation or Minister desiring a settlement. The need for this Board is shown by the frequency with which its help is sought. The function of the COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS is indicated by its title, and none is of greater concern to the welfare of our Churches. The Committee has organized and is working a Scheme of Study to assist men possessing essential gifts for the ministry, but lacking early training.

The GUILDS' UNION, to encourage young people to band themselves together for religious objects, and the SOCIAL SERVICE UNION, to arouse in the Churches a deeper interest in the pressing social problems of the day, further illustrate the wide scope of Conference interest. At the forthcoming Meetings the principal feature is expected to be the consideration of the REPORT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE on the important question of PUBLIC WORSHIP.

It will thus be seen that the NATIONAL CONFERENCE has not only an honourable past, but also a future, which entitles it to the loyal support of all who are interested in our Churches.

TRIENNIAL MEETINGS have been held at the following places :

1882—Liverpool.	1900—Leicester.
1885—Birmingham.	1903—Liverpool.
1888—Leeds.	1906—Oxford.
1891—London.	1909—Bolton.
1894—Manchester.	1912—Birmingham.
1897—Sheffield.	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Report of Committee

1912-1915

THE great War, in which portions of each of the world's five continents are directly involved, naturally so dominates all minds that it is difficult to fix attention on other matters, which, however interesting in themselves and at other times, are out of relation to the immediate supreme concern. For this reason, it was thought better to defer the Triennial Meetings of the Conference from the spring, for which as usual they had been fixed ; and also, when it was ultimately decided to hold them in the autumn, to reduce their scale. Most cordial acknowledgments are due for the kindness of the friends at Leeds who had invited the Conference to meet in that city, and whose hospitable intentions are to be fulfilled at a future time ; and also to friends in London, who promptly undertook to promote the general wish and convenience by facilitating the holding of meetings in London.

With regard to the War itself this is not the place

to discuss either its causes or hoped-for results. That such a hideous tragedy among nations, all of whom (except Japan and Turkey) profess to be followers of the Prince of Peace, should be possible at this stage of the world's history is enough to make the angels weep, and must wring the hearts not only of those whose homes are being rendered desolate, but of all lovers of their kind, who had fondly hoped that there is a necessary Law of Progress in human affairs. In presence of what is taking place, day by day, it may now seem difficult to indulge such hope, yet a larger view warns us against giving way to despair. What we are being taught to recognize more and more is the enormous capacity bestowed upon men for good or for evil. Shocked as we must be with the wickedness of those who are responsible for this war, we cannot forget, on the other hand, the magnificent heroism and self-sacrifice which it has called forth, ultimately inspired by the faith that because God is righteous, all that is unrighteous must finally be overcome. It is the business of the Christian church to deepen this faith with all its implications in the hearts of men. And therefore if, as some are inclined to say, Christianity stands condemned by the very fact of the War, it remains to be said that Christianity, as presented in the mind of its Founder, has never yet had a fair chance in the world. Those who regard it as above everything else a spirit of life, and not a body of dogmas or a system of ecclesiastical polity, have still their work in front of them. Doubtless there are

many individuals in all the organized churches as well as outside them who are feeling more or less consciously after this more spiritual conception, but to proclaim and illustrate it is the special function of the churches which constitute the National Conference.

Since the last Triennial Meetings in April, 1912, the Committee has met fourteen times. In addition there are various sub-committees and, as the members are widely scattered, much of the business has to be done by correspondence. At its first meeting it exercised the power of co-opting conferred by the Rules, and added to its number the Revs. J. Worsley Austin and C. J. Street and Messrs. G. H. Leigh, Grosvenor Talbot, A. S. Thew and, at a later period, Mr. Ronald P. Jones.

Mr. John Harrison, who was appointed Treasurer at Birmingham, was never able actually to enter on his duties, owing to illness. On his lamented death Mr. F. W. Monks accepted the cordial invitation of the Committee to the vacant office. The Committee have had to mourn the loss, in addition to Mr. Harrison, of two colleagues—Sir James Scott, who, having rendered valuable services as Treasurer for many years, was elected a Vice-President, and the Rev. J. Worsley Austin, who passed away just as his maturing powers were gaining wider recognition. Mr. Austin was succeeded on the Committee by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, especially in view of the meetings intended to be held in Leeds.

SUSTENTATION FUND.

The last Triennial meetings at Birmingham will always have a special place in the history of the Conference and of our Churches on account of the decision then taken 'to raise a sum of at least £30,000 to enable the Ministers' Sustentation Fund to extend its operations.' It was agreed that five years might be taken for the complete fulfilment of the scheme. The special Committee then appointed speedily got to work, with the gratifying result that within two months, after a limited personal canvass, upwards of £25,000 was promised. Thereupon, after consulting some of the larger donors, the Committee felt justified in enlarging the scheme as had been originally desired, so as to relieve the British and Foreign Unitarian Association of the assistance it had been accustomed to give to many *established* congregations, and thus set free its resources for its distinctive missionary work. This involved raising a further £20,000. Not only has the £50,000 thus required been promised, but a large portion was paid so promptly that the accumulated interest made it possible to remove the differentiation which had been proposed between the Stipends of English and Welsh ministers. The following figures give the present position of the Fund.

Donations promised.. ..	£50,509
Donations actually received	£46,561
Interest received	£1,794

New and Increased Annual Subs. . .	£109
Handed over to Sustentation Fund	£47,892
Expenses incurredabout	£162

Donors were given the option of paying in instalments spread over five years. On this basis 60%, or £30,000, should now have been received, whereas the amount that has been actually received is £46,561 or 93%. Various contingencies *may* arise until 1917, but there is no reason to expect that they will seriously affect the foregoing figures.

The small working expenses (·288% of the amount received) must be almost a record in such efforts.

The new scheme has been in operation since July, 1914, in accordance with which every accredited minister in England and Wales, who is efficiently doing an adequate amount of work, and whose congregation is making a satisfactory contribution, should receive a minimum stipend on the following scale:—

For Agricultural Districts	£120	0	0
For Towns and populous places . .	£150	0	0
For Cities and Large Towns	£175	0	0

In accordance with the desire expressed at Birmingham the Special Committee suggested to the Managers of the Sustentation Fund the propriety of giving to the National Conference, in consideration of the part it was taking in obtaining the enlarged resources, a direct representation in the management of the Fund. The Managers cordially agreed, and effected a change

in the Rules, whereby the Conference elects six representatives out of a total of twenty-three. The following were selected by the Committee: The President, Revs. C. J. Street, Joseph Wood, Messrs. George H. Leigh, F. W. Monks, and J. Harrop White. It will be necessary for the Conference at the Triennial Meetings to elect representatives for the next three years.

It is cause for sincere congratulation that this great effort, which appealed to all sections of our people and met with a response of unparalleled generosity, was completed just before the War broke out. As events have turned out, it would otherwise have been impossible for many years to come to carry through such a large scheme. Moreover, the Sustentation Fund will reap a permanent advantage through having been able to invest its new capital on much more favourable terms than had been anticipated.

The Special Committee met on many occasions, but the great bulk of the work was done, not by the Committee as a whole, but by two or three members. We should like specially to single out the names of the Revs. H. Enfield Dowson and James Harwood. Mr. Dowson threw his accustomed zest and enthusiasm into the work, and his belief in the possibility of collecting the larger sum needed, increased the enthusiasm of his colleagues; but it is to him that the Special Committee primarily owe the success of the Movement. His begging was irresistible. He never tired and was never discouraged—as a matter of fact he had few rebuffs, and all those who took part in the canvass

can testify to the gratifying response they received in nearly all directions. Mr. Dowson was most loyally and ably seconded by Mr. Harwood, who not only undertook to do personally a very large share of the canvass but added to his own labours in this direction an immense amount of secretarial work entailed by the operations of the Committee. In Mr. F. W. Monks, the Treasurer, the Committee were most fortunate in having secured the services of a man who has kept the Accounts in such admirable order, and who has so willingly undertaken to do all the detailed work himself,—no light operation.

MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS BOARD.

The Board, which commenced operations at the beginning of 1910, has since then received 125 applications for its assistance from Ministers and 86 from Congregations. During the last Triennial term some changes have taken place in its constitution and procedure. In the first instance, the Board consisted of 20 members, who appointed a Confidential Sub-committee of 4 for the purpose of recommending and consulting with congregations. After some experience it was thought that, while the Board was unnecessarily large, the Sub-committee was not sufficiently representative. To meet the double objection the Board has been reduced to 6 members, of whom 5 are chosen by the Conference Committee and one by the Ministerial Fellowship. These are responsible for the business of the Board, and may not delegate their

functions. For the purpose of making recommendations they are joined by a representative of the Advisory Committee of the District to which the congregation seeking advice belongs. The names of the ministers selected (never exceeding three at one time) are submitted in alphabetical order, and not, as previously, in order of preference.

Later still, the Conference Committee, on the recommendation of the Board, has decided that what was known as the 'Information' list of ministers desiring a fresh appointment be no longer sent to congregations. At present, therefore, the Board is limited to making recommendations to congregations, when requested, from ministers on its list. But the Board has recommended a further change, whereby it should be authorized to select ministers not only from its own list, but from the list in the Essex Hall Year Book. The Conference Committee, while favourably disposed to this proposal and recommending its adoption, has thought it better to leave the final decision to the Conference itself.

COMMITTEE ON THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS, ETC.

Under the direction of this Committee the scheme of Examination for Lay Workers described in the last Report has been carried out. Thirteen candidates have presented themselves for one or more examinations during the three years, of whom four have been finally admitted to the list of recognized ministers,

after having passed the Examinations and also satisfactorily discharged their Pastoral duties on Probation.

Though the Committee is anxious that no one with a real vocation for the ministry should be shut out, through lack of early advantages of education, it quite realizes that this scheme for Lay Workers should only be resorted to in very exceptional cases. A recent conference of Representatives of Advisory Committees has taken steps with the view, on the one hand, of allowing the elasticity needful to meet the great variety of circumstances to be dealt with, and on the other, of securing harmony of action in different parts of the country. Anyone below 25 years of age, feeling the call to the ministry, is expected to take the usual course of training at one of our Colleges, which exist and are supported for the very purpose of securing an educated ministry. Never more than to-day was it necessary to uphold the standard of the ministry, if the Churches are to do the work demanded from them.

The Committee has much pleasure in acknowledging a generous gift of £25 from the Hibbert Trustees, by means of which the more expensive books in the prescribed course of reading are lent to Candidates. Great thanks are also due to those who have acted as examiners, viz., Revs. Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Mellone, Philemon Moore, Dr. J. E. Odgers, and Mr. Hermann Thomas, and also to several of our senior ministers who have kindly reported on the Sermons and Pastoral Reading of Candidates in their several districts.

The Committee notes with much satisfaction that the danger of appointing unsuitable ministers to vacant pulpits is more generally recognized than formerly, and that, as a rule, Congregations and Committees that make grants follow the advice given in the Essex Hall Year Book 'to take no steps in respect to the selection or appointment of any minister whose name does not appear in the Year Book' (unless he is a Student leaving one of our Colleges) 'until one of the Advisory Committees has given a certificate as to his character and personal fitness.' Advisory Committees, before granting certificates to ministers who have been connected with other denominations, are now urged to obtain independent trustworthy information from responsible people in those denominations.

The Joint Committee, consisting of representatives of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the National Conference, and the Ministerial Fellowship, agreed to in 1909, for revising annually the list of ministers in the Essex Hall Year Book has continued to work very satisfactorily. For the future it will be in closer touch with the Advisory Committees.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The Committee has had under consideration the widespread neglect of public worship and the decline of interest in church life and work, which are generally recognized as characteristic of most, if not all, churches in the present day. The matter was referred to a

Special Committee, with the Rev. Joseph Wood, who introduced the subject, as chairman.

This Committee issued a comprehensive series of Questions to Ministers, congregational officials, and others likely to be helpful with information and suggestions. The report of the Committee, based on the replies received, was widely circulated as a separate pamphlet, and excited considerable interest. A revised edition with some additions and explanations has since been issued. It is hoped that the inquiry and the discussion at the forthcoming Triennial Meetings may, by disclosing some of our weak places, lead to improvements in our methods, and still more, to a deepening of spiritual life throughout our churches.

THE ROLL.

The Congregation at Ilford has been added to the Roll during the term. Lower Mosley Street (Manchester) has been amalgamated with Cross Street, while Chelmsford and King's Lynn have ceased to exist. On the application of the National Unitarian Temperance Association and the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland the Committee recommends the Conference to add these bodies to the list of Societies in Rule 7, entitled to elect a member on the Committee.

FINANCE.

An Annual Statement of Accounts is sent to each Congregation, Association, and Subscriber on the Roll.

The following particulars relating to the last three years may be noted with interest :—

	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
No. of Congrega- tions on the Roll	356	356	356
No. of Congrega- tions Subscribing	136	159	149
No. of Associa- tions Subscrib- ing	16	17	16
No. of Individu- als Subscribing	15	14	11
Total Contribu- tions	£180 12 1	£199 13 2	£165 10 3
Total expenses ..	£177 18 7	£189 17 2	£192 13 10
Balance at end of year : Due .	£4 1 4		£20 1 8
In hand		£5 18 10	

The Committee would like to be in a position to say that each Congregation on the Roll is sufficiently interested in the work and efforts of the Conference to cause them to make a definite contribution towards the necessary expenses. This is all the more necessary just now because the Triennial Meetings will be held in October, necessitating a considerable increase in the expenditure of something like £70.

THE WAR.

At the outbreak of the War an admirably appro-

priate address, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Drummond, under the auspices of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, and signed by its President, was issued to our churches, and our President was also invited to sign. More recently an opportunity offered of reciprocating the courtesy, when a Letter by our President on the necessity of adding to the efficiency of the nation by encouraging Temperance was signed by him and the President of the Association. It seemed fitting that on such important questions our churches, like others, should be addressed by those, who from their official position, are generally recognized for the time being as their public representatives.

The Conference Committee was requested by the East Cheshire Union to prepare some special Prayers for use in our churches during the War. A small Committee, composed of representatives chosen by the Committees of the Conference and the Association, accordingly prepared a selection of Prayers, which has had a considerable circulation.

It may be mentioned here that from the formation of the National Council of Peace Societies, the Conference, without pretending to deal with political questions, has testified its desire for Peace by being represented on the Council. The present state of affairs may seem to be a grim satire on such efforts. Nevertheless, it can only be through the earnest and well-directed endeavours of genuine lovers of peace that the time for which as religious and humane people we pray, can be brought nearer.

DEPUTATIONS.

The Conference has been represented at the Annual Meetings of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association and of most of the District Associations, and is always glad in this way to draw closer the relations between the constituent churches and itself. The Treasurer, Secretary, and Miss Spencer attended the International Conference in Paris in 1913, which from various causes differed considerably from its predecessors. Unfortunately, it has again proved impracticable to be represented at the Annual Meetings of the Protestantenvond in Holland, but letters of greeting and sympathy have been sent.

In returning its trust, the Committee is thankful to believe that much good work has been accomplished during the last three years. With regard to the future, though it is dangerous to prophesy as to particular events, especially in the grave crisis through which the world is passing, it may safely be predicted that many changes will take place in the coming years. Churches, as well as other organizations of every kind, will have to pass through a severe testing time. All the more urgent, therefore, is the special call to the churches which constitute the National Conference, to bear witness to the fundamental verities of religion, that 'through the din of earthly interests and the storm of human passions' they may 'make the still small voice of (the) Spirit inly felt.'

HUGH R. RATHBONE, *President.*

ROLL OF THE CHURCHES

With the Amounts contributed by each.

ENGLAND.

[illegible]

	1912-1913	1913-1914	1914-1915
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bootle			
Boston			
Boston Mills			
Bournemouth	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Bradford—			
Broadway Avenue	0 2 6	0 2 6	0 2 6
Chapel Lane	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Bradwell			
Braintree			
Bridgwater	0 10 6	0 10 0	0 10 0
Bridport	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Brighton	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Bristol—			
Lewin's Mead	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Montague Street			
Burnley	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Bury—			
Bank Street	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
Chesham	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Bury St. Edmunds		0 10 0	
Buxton			
Cambridge		0 5 0	0 5 0
Carlisle			
Chatham	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Cheltenham			
Chester	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Chesterfield	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Chichester			
Choppington			
Chorley			
Chowbent	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Cirencester		1 0 0	
Clifton	2 16 1	3 10 9	3 13 4
Colne	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Colyton			
Congleton			0 5 0
Coseley			
Coventry			
Cradley			
Crediton			
Crewe			
Crewkerne	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Croft			

	1912-1913			1913-1914			1914-1915		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Croydon—									
Dennett Hall									
Wellesley Road									
Cullompton	0	7	6	0	11	6	0	10	0
Darlington	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Deal									
Dean Row	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Denton									
Derby	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Devonport									
Dewsbury	0	5	0						
Diss	0	2	6	0	2	6	0	2	6
Ditchling	0	6	0	0	6	0			
Doncaster									
Dover	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Dudley	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Dukinfield	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Elland									
Evesham	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Exeter	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Filby									
Flagg									
Framlingham									
Frenchay	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Gainsborough									
Gateacre									
Gateshead	0	5	0						
Gee Cross	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0
Glossop				0	10	0	0	5	0
Gloucester	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Godalming									
Great Hucklow									
Great Yarmouth									
Guildford									
Hale				1	1	0	0	10	6
Halifax	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Halstead									
Hapton									
Hastings									
Heywood	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Hinckley				1	1	0			
Hindley									
Horsham				1	1	0	0	10	0

	1912-1913			1913-1914			1914-1915		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Horwich									
Huddersfield									
Hull	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hyde (Flowery Field)				2	2	0			
Idle									
Ilford									
Ilkeston									
Ilminster	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ipswich	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Kendal									
Kidderminster									
Kingswood									
Kirkstead									
Knutsford									
Lancaster									
Leeds—									
Holbeck				6	10	0	3	5	0
Hunslet									
Mill Hill	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
Leicester—									
Great Meeting	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0
Narborough Road	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Leigh	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lewes	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lincoln									
Liscard	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Liverpool—									
Ancient Chapel	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Bond Street									
Garston									
Hamilton Road									
Hope Street	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Mill Street	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Ullet Road	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
London—									
Acton									
Bell Street									
Bermondsey									
Blackfriars									
Brixton	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Child's Hill									
Deptford									
Essex Church	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0

	1912-1913			1913-1914			1914-1915		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
London (continued)—									
Finchley	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Forest Gate									
George's Row									
Hackney	0	2	6	0	2	6			
Hampstead	7	6	6	5	5	0	5	5	0
Highgate									
Islington									
Kentish Town.....									
Kilburn	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Lewisham									
Limehouse				0	10	0	0	10	0
Little Portland Street ..				2	2	0	1	1	0
Mansford Street	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Peckham									
Rhyl Street									
Richmond									
Stepney Green									
Stoke Newington									
Stratford									
Wandsworth	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Wood Green									
Woolwich									
Long Sutton									
Loughborough									
Lydgate.....	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Lye									
Macclesfield.....	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Maidstone	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Malton									
Manchester—									
Blackley									
Bradford	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Broughton									
Chorlton									
Cross Street.....	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
Dob Lane				1	0	0	0	10	0
Gorton	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Hulme Domestic Mission									
Longsight									
Moss Side				1	1	0	0	10	6
Oldham Road									
Pendleton	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0

	1912-1913			1913-1914			1914-1915		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Manchester (continued)—									
Platt	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Sale	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Swinton				0	5	0	0	5	0
Upper Brook Street ...									
Urmston									
Willert Street									
Mansfield	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Middlesbrough	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Middleton									
Monton	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Moretonhampstead									
Mossley	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Mottram	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Nantwich									
Nelson	0	2	6	0	2	6			
Newark									
Newbury									
Newcastle-on-Tyne									
Newcastle-under-Lyme ..	0	4	6	0	4	0	0	2	0
Newchurch	0	10	6	1	1	0	0	10	6
Newport, Isle of Wight ...	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Newton Abbot									
Northampton	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Northiam									
Norwich	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Nottingham—									
Christ Church									
High Pavement	2	18	7	4	7	4	2	14	9
Oldbury									
Oldham				2	2	0	1	1	0
Oxford	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Padiham	1	0	0	2	0	0			
Park Lane				2	0	8	1	0	0
Pepperhill									
Plymouth				0	11	3	0	17	2
Poole	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Portsmouth—									
High Street									
St. Thomas' Street									
Preston	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Pudsey									
Rawtenstall	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0

	1912-1913			1913-1914			1914-1915		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Reading									
Ringwood	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Rivington				1	1	0	1	1	0
Rochdale									
Rotherham				1	0	0	0	10	0
Rushall									
Saffron Walden									
St. Helens				0	5	0	0	5	0
Scarborough	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Selby									
Sheffield—									
Attercliffe	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Upper Chapel	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Upperthorpe	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Shepton Mallet									
Shrewsbury									
Sidmouth	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Southampton	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Southend									
Southport	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
South Shields									
Stalybridge				1	0	0	0	10	0
Stand									
Stannington									
Stockport	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees									
Stourbridge	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Styal									
Sunderland									
Tamworth	0	10	6						
Taunton									
Tavistock									
Tenterden				0	5	0	0	5	0
Todmorden	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Torquay	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0
Trowbridge									
Tunbridge Wells				0	10	0			
Wakefield									
Walmsley									
Walsall	0	10	6						
Walthamstow									
Wareham									
Warrington	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0

SCOTLAND.

	1912-1913	1913-1914	1914-1915
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aberdeen.....		1 1 0	0 10 6
Dundee			
Edinburgh	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 10 6
Glasgow—			
Ross Street			
St. Vincent Street	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Kirkcaldy			

IRELAND.

Antrim			
Ballee		0 15 0	0 5 0
Ballycarry.....			
Ballyclare			
Ballyhemlin			
Ballymoney			
Banbridge	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Belfast—			
First Presbyterian Ch. .			
All Souls'.....	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0
Mountpottinger	0 5 0		
Stanhope Street			
York Street			
Cairncastle	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0
Carrickfergus			
Clonmel			
Clough			
Comber	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 10 0
Cork			
Crumlin			
Downpatrick			
Dromore			
Dublin	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Dunmurry.....		0 5 0	0 5 0
Glenarm			
Grey Abbey			
Hollywood	0 5 0		0 5 0
Killinchy			
Larne			

	1912-1913	1913-1914	1914-1915
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Moirs			
Moneyrea			
Newry			
Newtownards			
Rademon			
Raloo			
Ravara			
Templepatrick			
Warrenpoint			
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£139 12 1	£163 15 8	£135 4 9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ASSEMBLIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British League of Untn. Women	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Eastern Union	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
East Cheshire Union	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Liverpool Dis. Missionary Assn.	1 1 0	2 2 0	
London Dis. Unitarian Society	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Manchester Dist. Association of P. & U. Churches	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Midland Christian Union	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Non-Subs. Presbyterian Church of Ireland	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
N. & E. Lancashire Unit. Missn.	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Northum. & Durham Unit. Ass.	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Prov. Assem. of Lancs. & Chesh.	5 5 0	5 5 0	5 5 0
Prov. Assn. of London & S.E. Counties	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Sheffield & Dis. Ass. of Churches	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Southern Unitarian Association	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
S. Wales Unitarian Association	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Western Union	1 1 0	1 1 0	1 1 0
Yorkshire Union		2 2 0	1 1 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£21 0 0	£24 3 0	£21 0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

PERSONAL.

	1912-13			1913-14			1914-15		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aspland, Mrs. L. M.	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Bishop, Rev. J. W.	0	2	6	0	2	6	0	2	6
Burgess, Rev. W. H.	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Burrows, Rev. S.	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	6
Carpenter, Rev. Dr. J. E. .	5	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Elliot, Rev. T.	0	5	0						
Greg, H. P.	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Jones, David J.	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
Lawson, John	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Monks, F. W.	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Nettlefold, F. (the late) ..	3	3	0						
Summers, Rev. F.	0	2	6	0	2	6			
Thorpe, Mrs. (the late)	2	2	0	2	2	0			
Turland, Rev. W. F.				0	5	0			
Warnock, Rev. W. H.	0	5	0	0	2	6	0	2	6
Williams, L. N.	0	10	6	0	10	6	0	10	6
	<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£20	0	0	£11	14	6	9	5	6
	<hr/>			<hr/>			<hr/>		

RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*As adopted at Leicester in 1900, and amended at Oxford in 1906,
at Bolton in 1909, and at Birmingham in 1912.*

1. This Conference shall be called 'The National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian, and other non-subscribing or kindred Congregations.' It shall meet at least once in every three years.

2. The following persons shall be members of the Conference and entitled to vote at all its meetings :—

(a) The minister or ministers of each congregation on the roll of the Conference.

(b) Two delegates from each congregation on the roll.
(It is understood that hospitality can be offered to one only).

(c) One delegate from each of the Societies enumerated in Rule 7.

(d) Ministers not in charge of congregations whose names are contained in the last Essex Hall Year Book.

(e) The Principal and all Professors on the permanent staff of Carmarthen College, Manchester College, Oxford, and the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester. 11

(f) All officers and members of the Committee.

(g) All past Presidents.

(h) All Preachers of the Conference Sermon.

(i) Any other person who may be elected a member by resolution passed at any Triennial Conference. Such membership shall continue for the period named in the resolution, or, if no period be named therein, for seven years. 1

3. The Secretary shall keep a roll or list of the congregations and societies that are entitled to send representatives to a Conference. Any congregation or society not on the roll may apply in writing for admission after due notice has

been given on the Agenda Paper. Such application shall in the first place be considered by the Committee, which may, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of the members present, at once place the name of such congregation or society on the roll. If two-thirds of the members of Committee present do not vote in favour of such resolution, the Committee shall not have power to add the name of such congregation or society to the roll. But the Committee may by a simple majority pass a resolution recommending the Conference to do so.

4. Any member of the Conference who has given at least twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention, may propose at any Triennial Conference a resolution that the name of any congregation or society be added to the roll, or that any person be elected a member of the Conference under Rule 2 (*i*). Any such resolution may also be proposed on behalf of the Committee, in which case it shall be sufficient if notice of it be given in or with the report of the Committee. In either case, such resolution must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

5. The business of the Conference, subject to any directions given at any meeting of the Conference, shall be managed by the Committee and the Officers. The Committee shall decide what papers shall be read and what resolutions shall be moved at each Triennial Conference.

6. The Committee shall consist of :—(*a*) Representatives chosen by the Societies enumerated in Rule 7. (*b*) Fifteen persons to be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference. (*c*) Not more than six persons who may be elected from time to time by co-optation by those elected under clauses *a* and *b*. The Committee shall go out of office at the conclusion of each Triennial Conference.

7. Each of the following Societies shall have the right under Rule 6 (*a*), to elect a representative to serve on the Committee. The Secretary of each Society shall forward the name of its representative to the Secretary of the Conference,

at least ten days before the assembling of each Triennial Conference.

ENGLAND : The Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association for Missionary purposes.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

The Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

The Liverpool District Missionary Association.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

The East Cheshire Christian Union for Missionary purposes.

The North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.

The Midland Christian Union of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and other Non-subscribing Churches.

The Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Provincial Assembly of London and the South Eastern Counties.

The London District Unitarian Society.

The Southern Unitarian Association.

The North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Sheffield and District Association of Churches.

The General Baptist Assembly.

The Manchester College, Oxford.

The Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The Sunday School Association.

The Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers Union.

The British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women.

The Conference Union for Social Service.

The Missionary Conference.

WALES : The South Wales Unitarian Association.

The South-East Wales Unitarian Society.

The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

SCOTLAND : The Scottish Unitarian Association.

IRELAND : The Presbytery of Antrim.

The Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.

The United Presbytery or Synod of Munster.

The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians.

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

Any Society not enumerated in Rule 7 may apply in writing to the Secretary to be so enumerated, and such application shall be considered by the Conference at its next Triennial Meeting, provided that the application has been received not later than the preceding December 31st. The Conference may by a resolution carried by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting agree to such application.

8. The fifteen persons to be elected by the members under Rule 6 (b) shall be nominated in the following manner :— Every congregation on the roll, and every Society enumerated in Rule 7, shall be notified that it may nominate some one person, who need not be a member of the congregation or society nominating, to serve on the Committee. The expiring Committee may also, if they think fit, nominate not more than six persons—not being members of the expiring Committee—to serve on the new Committee. All such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the assembling of the Conference. He shall then prepare a list of the persons nominated, showing by whom each person

is nominated, and shall cause the same to be printed and delivered to each member as soon as possible after his arrival in the town in which the Conference is held. No one whose name does not appear on such list shall be elected on the committee under Rule 6 (b), except by a unanimous vote of the members present.

9. From the persons nominated in accordance with Rule 8, fifteen shall be elected in the following manner:—The President or other Chairman of the Meeting shall appoint Scrutineers. Each member shall make, on his copy of the list of persons nominated, a cross opposite the names of the persons for whom he intends to vote. The Scrutineers, if members, may vote. No member may vote for more than fifteen persons to serve on the Committee. Each member shall then sign his list with his name and address, and hand it as his voting paper to the Scrutineers. If any member who has been present during any portion of the Conference is compelled to leave before the Business Meeting, he may lodge his voting paper, duly signed, with the Secretary, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed 'To the Scrutineers'; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to hand the same to the Scrutineers on behalf of such member.

10. The Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper which is not signed by a member, every voting paper on which more than fifteen names (of those nominated for Committee) are marked, and every voting paper which is in their opinion unintelligible or equivocal. They shall then count the votes, and the Chairman shall announce the result to the meeting. The voting papers shall then be destroyed by the Secretary.

11. The Officers of the Conference shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, one or more Secretaries (Honorary or paid), and two Auditors. The Officers shall be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference, and shall hold office till the conclusion of the next Triennial Conference. Honorary Officers shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

12. It shall be the duty of the expiring Committee to submit to each Triennial Conference the names of persons whom they deem qualified, and whom they have ascertained to be willing, to serve as Officers of the Conference. Any member present at any Triennial Conference may propose any other person for any office, and the vote shall be taken at the Business meeting by show of hands.

13. The Committee may fill up any vacancy which may occur on the Committee or in any office through death, absence, resignation, or from any other cause.

14. The Committee shall hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters affecting the well-being and interests of the congregations and societies on the roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects, or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.

15. At each Triennial Conference the Committee shall present to the members a full report of its proceedings and of the action which it has taken, for the approval or otherwise of the Conference. A copy of such report shall be forwarded ten days at least before the assembling of each Triennial Conference to every member whose name and address is then known to the Secretary. It shall state the general nature of any resolution (other than formal or usual business) which is to be proposed on behalf of the Committee at the approaching conference.

16. These Rules may be varied or repealed, or new Rules made, at any Triennial Conference by a resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Unless such resolution is to be moved on behalf of the Committee, notice of the proposed alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary twenty-eight days at least before the assembling of the Conference. In either case, notice of the resolution must be given in or with the report of the Committee. Notice of any other resolution

proposed to be moved at the Business Meeting must reach the Secretary two days at least before the assembling of each Conference.

NOTE.—The following Resolution, adopted at Oxford in 1906, though not embodied in the Rules, is important :—

‘That the Congregations on the Roll be urgently requested to make an annual contribution towards meeting the ordinary expenses of the Conference.’

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian,
Presbyterian, and other
Non-subscribing or Kindred Congregations.

TRIENNIAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE, ETC.

Presented at Birmingham.

April, 1912.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1909-12.

President : Rev. H. ENFIELD DOWSON, B.A.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. JAMES R. BEARD, J.P.
Sir WILLIAM B. BOWRING, Bart.
Rev. Dr. J. ESTLIN CARPENTER.
Mr. HOWARD CHATFIELD CLARKE, F.R.I.B.A.
Dr. W. BLAKE ODGERS, K.C.
Rev. JOSEPH WOOD.

Treasurer : Sir JAMES W. SCOTT, Bart.

Auditors : Mr. G. R. BRACE and Mr. C. SYDNEY JONES, M.A.

Secretary : Rev. JAMES HARWOOD, B.A.,

Committee :

(Elected Members)

Rev. DENDY AGATE, B.A.	Rev. CHAS. ROPER, B.A.
Rev. E. D. P. EVANS.	Rev. C. J. STREET, M.A., LL.B.
Rev. ALFRED HALL, M.A.	Mr. A. S. THEW.
Mr. JOHN HARRISON.	Mr. J. C. WARREN, M.A.
Mr. JOHN LAWSON.	Rev. J. H. WEATHERALL, M.A.
Rev. CHAS. PEACH.	Mr. J. WIGLEY.

(Co-opted Members)

Rev. HENRY GOW, B.A.	Mr. GEORGE H. LEIGH.
Mr. HENRY P. GREG, M.A.	Mr. GROSVENOR TALBOT.
Rev. C. HARGROVE, M.A.	Mr. GOMER THOMAS.

Representative Members :

Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association.
—Rev. W. H. LAMBELLE.
Yorkshire Unitarian Union.—Rev. A. H. DOLPHIN.
Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire.—Mr. T.
FLETCHER ROBINSON.

- North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.—Rev. J. J. WRIGHT.
- Liverpool District Missionary Association.—Rev. H. D. ROBERTS.
- Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches—Mr. G. W. R. WOOD, J.P.
- East Cheshire Christian Union.—Rev. B. C. CONSTABLE.
- North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.—Rev. J. M. LLOYD THOMAS.
- Midland Christian Union.—Mr. W. BYNG KENRICK.
- Eastern Union.—Rev. A. GOLLAND, M.A.
- Provincial Assembly of London and South Eastern Counties.—Rev. F. H. JONES, B.A.
- London District Unitarian Society.—Rev. W. W. C. POPE.
- Southern Unitarian Association.—Mr. WM. CARTER.
- North Lancashire and Westmorland Unitarian Association.—Rev. C. TRAVERS.
- Western Union.—Rev. RUDOLF DAVIES, B.A.
- General Baptist Assembly.—Rev. A. J. MARCHANT (deceased).
- Manchester College.—Rev. P. M. HIGGINSON, M.A.
- Unitarian Home Missionary College.—Rev. T. P. SPEDDING.
- British and Foreign Unitarian Association.—Rev. W. G. TARRANT, B.A.
- Sunday School Association.—Mr. ION PRITCHARD.
- Central Postal Mission.—Miss R. LEE.
- South Wales Unitarian Association.—Rev. T. ARTHUR THOMAS.
- South-East Wales Unitarian Society.—Mr. JNO. LEWIS.
- Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.—Mr. HAROLD BAILY.
- Scottish Unitarian Association.—
- Presbytery of Antrim.—Rev. H. J. ROSSINGTON, M.A., B.D.
- Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.—Rev. J. H. BIBBY.
- Synod of Munster.—Rev. E. S. HICKS, M.A.
- Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, etc., Association.—Rev. J. A. KELLY.
- Ulster Unitarian Christian Association —Rev. G. J. SLIPPER.

The National Conference has gradually grown into what we know it to be to-day. At a meeting of the Council of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1881, a Committee was appointed 'to make arrangements for a meeting of Ministers and Laymen for Religious Fellowship and Conference in some district in England.' It was agreed that such meeting be held in Liverpool in the following year, and 'invitations were first issued to all Ministers and Congregations in the Unitarian Almanac, and to the leading Laymen of the Body, with a Postscript asking for the names of Ministers and others to whom it was thought desirable that circulars should be sent.' The widest possible basis was desired. Advertisements offering circulars of invitation were inserted in Papers like *The Christian World*, *The Freeman*, *The Nonconformist*, and *The Independent*. Well-known leaders outside Unitarian circles were asked to take part in the meeting, but the only one to respond to the invitation seems to have been the Rev. Joseph Wood, then Congregationalist Minister at Leicester, who has since rendered splendid service to the Conference, notably as its President (1906-1909).

The remarkable success of the Liverpool meetings, as regards both numbers and enthusiasm, led to similar meetings being held in Birmingham in 1885, and since then they have been held triennially. The meetings have always been open to all comers, but practical considerations of accommodation, combined with a desire to give the Conference a representative character, caused *personal* invitations to be limited to Ministers and definitely appointed Delegates from Congregations and Societies. A further step was taken at a special meeting held in London in 1898, when it was resolved that the Committee of the Conference, having been constituted on a basis to represent the various Congregations and Associations which compose the Conference, 'be instructed to hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable, to take action in matters affecting the well-being and interests of the Congregations and Societies which form the Conference,

as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects ; or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.' Thus the Conference has gradually become the recognized organ of our Churches. Without seeking to exercise anything in the way of ecclesiastical authority, it is always striving to draw the Churches more closely to each other in the bonds of fellowship and to make them stronger through and for mutual helpfulness.

What has it actually done in this way ? In the first place, its Triennial Meetings have aroused and strengthened the sense of common aims and needs and duties. They have brought together representatives from every part of the Kingdom—many of them holding the fort in lonely places—to confer on matters of importance, to be quickened by the Preacher's or Speaker's word, and the collective voice of Praise and Prayer.

But more than this, the Conference has initiated several important movements and Societies. THE MINISTERS' STIPEND AUGMENTATION FUND, which now has a capital of over £27,000, and distributes annually £1,500, was founded at the first meeting. This was followed in 1902 by the MINISTERS' PENSION AND INSURANCE FUND, which possesses a capital of £25,340, and enables nearly one-third of our Ministers to make some provision for old age and death. It is hoped that the forthcoming meetings will witness a further step in the direction of making more adequate provision for our Ministers.

The Conference has also been the means of establishing ADVISORY COMMITTEES throughout England and Wales, whose chief object is to enquire into the credentials of men desiring to enter our ministry who have not passed through one of our Colleges. There are five such Committees, and the importance and delicacy of their duties are indicated by the fact that one of them during the past year has had to deal with no fewer than 17 applications. Then, there is the MINISTERIAL

SETTLEMENTS BOARD, whose services are at the disposal of any Congregation or Minister desiring a settlement. The need for this Board is shown by the frequency with which its help is sought. The function of the COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS, is indicated by its title, and none is of greater concern to the welfare of our Churches. The Committee has organized and is working a Scheme of Study to assist men possessing essential gifts for the ministry, but lacking early training.

The GUILDS' UNION, to encourage young people to band themselves together for religious objects, and the SOCIAL SERVICE UNION, to arouse in the Churches a deeper interest in the pressing social problems of the day, further illustrate the wide scope of Conference interest. At the coming meetings, what is known as the CIRCUIT SCHEME will be brought forward with the view of strengthening some of our weak places and making more effective use of our resources.

It will thus be seen that the NATIONAL CONFERENCE has not only an honourable past, but also a future, which entitles it to the loyal support of all who are interested in our Churches.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Report of Committee

1909-1912

SINCE the National Conference met in Birmingham in 1885 there have been great changes in the religious life and thought of the country, all tending to the relaxation of fetters, and often, it must be confessed, to laxity in the observances of religion. It is difficult to judge of the real life of a people by external and conventional signs. The form may be there without the spirit, but it is no less true that the absence of form is no guarantee for the presence of the spirit. Most churches are regretting decline in membership and in attendance at public worship ; all of them are perceptibly anxious at their failure to reach vast masses of the people, whose importance, social and political, is ever increasing.

Though the Churches which compose the National Conference cannot regard this state of things with indifference, they may well take courage in remembering that every great Religious Reformation in the past has sprung out of the decline of long established

beliefs and practices, which had lost their hold on the living heart and mind of the people. As the appeal to tradition and mere external authority failed, the fundamental verities and needs of the soul asserted themselves with irresistible effect, so that what had been feared by many as the Eclipse of faith proved to be the necessary condition for a Revival of faith. There are keen observers of the times who already discern the dawn of a new day. That it must come, sooner or later, no one can doubt who believes that God is in his world and in the souls of his children. That we are called to be fellow-workers with him in the establishment of his kingdom and 'in bearing witness to divine things' is a privilege carrying with it a corresponding responsibility. It behoves the Churches of the National Conference, which inherit the position of religious pioneers, not 'to bate a jot of heart or hope, but still bear up and steer right onward.'

The triennial term has been one of great activity. The Committee has met regularly, but the greater part of the detailed business is dealt with by the various Sub-committees and Bodies founded by the Conference, and also by correspondence. At its first meeting the Committee, in virtue of the power conferred by Rule 6 (c), co-opted the following gentlemen : Revs. H. Gow, C. Hargrove, Messrs. H. P. Greg, Geo. H. Leigh, Grosvenor Talbot, and Gomer Thomas.

Happily no vacancy has been caused by death among the elected members, but the respected repre-

sentative of the General Baptist Assembly, Rev. A. J. Marchant, has passed away. The Conference has also had to mourn the loss of one of its Vice-Presidents, and the last survivor of the four original Hon. Secs., in the Rev. S. A. Steinthal, who for his work's sake as well as for his own sake was honoured and beloved throughout our Churches.

As a matter of personal interest it may also be mentioned here that the Committee had the pleasure of congratulating the Treasurer, Sir James W. Scott, on the Baronetcy conferred on him by our late King.

MINISTERIAL STIPENDS.

It will be remembered that at the last Triennial Meetings the following Resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of the then President (Rev. Joseph Wood), seconded by Rev. C. J. Street :—

That in view both of the changed conditions of the age and the pressing need of our churches for a closer and more practical fellowship, whereby the strength of the strong shall be more readily held at the service of the weak, and mutual effectiveness developed in a quickened sense of unity, this Conference, while avoiding any assumption of ecclesiastical authority, and resolved upon the maintenance of the ancient liberties of the churches, is of opinion that the time is opportune for a resolute effort to secure effective co-operation among our institutions, and to bring the churches into a more vital fellowship, and instructs the Conference Committee to prepare and present to the Conference a plan for the carrying out of these objects.

That the Committee of the Conference is accordingly instructed to consult with the British and Foreign Unitaria

Association, the managers of the Stipend Augmentation and Sustentation Funds, and the Committees of the Local Associations, by means of Joint Committees of these bodies for special purposes, and in any other way that may be deemed desirable, with a view to a full consideration of all the questions involved, including the suggestions now made by the President.

As a mode of giving effect to this Resolution, the Committee decided

That as a preliminary to the consideration of any scheme of organization, and with a view to seek their support in securing effective co-operation among our Institutions, the Executive of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association be requested to appoint six representatives, who, with six appointed by this Committee and the two Presidents, and the two Secretaries for consultative and recording purposes, shall constitute a joint committee, to report in due course to both constituent Committees.

In response to this Resolution, the Committee of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, at their meeting on 13th October, 1909, appointed the following representatives: Mr. G. W. Brown, Mr. Howard Chatfeild Clarke, Miss Clephan, Mr. C. F. Pearson, Mr. Ion Pritchard, and Rev. Charles Roper.

The six representatives, nominated by the President and appointed by the Committee of the National Conference, were: Rev. Henry Gow, Rev. C. J. Street, Rev. Joseph Wood, Mr. H. P. Greg, Mr. C. Sydney Jones, and Mr. W. Byng Kenrick.

A Meeting of the Joint-Committee was held at Essex Hall, London, on 9th December, 1909, when all the above-named were present, with the exception of

Miss Clephan (who agreed with the Report submitted). There were also present Mr. John Harrison, President of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, Rev. H. Enfield Dowson, President of the National Conference, and Revs. W. Copeland Bowie and James Harwood, the respective Secretaries of these two bodies.

This Committee unanimously agreed to a Report, the tenor of which is conveyed in the following extracts.

1. The British and Foreign Unitarian Association is essentially a Missionary organization for the diffusion of the principles of Unitarian Christianity. While in its rules one of its objects is defined to be 'assisting Congregations'—to quote the last Report—'it is the aim of the Committee, as far as practicable, to confine the annual grants from the Association to Churches which are in the missionary or growing stage, and to leave it to the Stipend Augmentation, Sustentation, and other Funds to supplement the salaries of ministers of what may be called established Churches.' To this end consultation with the Sustentation Fund took place some years ago at the instance of the late Mr. A. W. Worthington, who was then Secretary both of the National Conference and of the Sustentation Fund, and a complete agreement on this principle was then arrived at. With the Augmentation Fund there was more difficulty, because its grants are made confidentially and not through the Congregations; but an interchange of information is regularly effected with a view to do justice to the ministers and also to prevent overlapping. Unfortunately, in practice, as the two Funds named are insufficient to meet the needs of the Churches, it has been hitherto found necessary for the British and Foreign Unitarian Association still to subsidise some of these older Churches; but the Association would rejoice to have

the responsibility for this work transferred to the Funds specifically directed to the purpose of maintaining an efficient ministry.

2. While the rules of the National Conference do not define the purpose for which it was established, it is best indicated in the very name. The Conference is essentially a deliberative assembly of the Congregations which constitute it, represented by their ministers and delegates; and its scope has hitherto been to confer, discuss, suggest, stimulate, and initiate. Such new movements as have been initiated through the impulse given by the Conference, for example, the Sustentation Fund, the Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund, and the Ministerial Settlements Board, have been constituted with suitable management *ad hoc*. The special field of usefulness open to the Conference lies in bringing together representatives of our Churches to discuss matters of vital interest, to devise means of quickening their life and improving their efficiency, and to infuse a greater spirit of devotion, sympathy, and liberality of thought and life. The status of the ministry and the general welfare of the Churches come also within the province of the Conference.

3. The Joint-Committee, while describing in general terms the present functions of the two organizations, do not of course suggest any attempt to bind the action of either in relation to the needs and developments of the future. They recommend that if at any time differences arise between the two bodies, such differences should be considered by a joint meeting of their representatives.

4. The Augmentation and Sustentation Funds exist for the maintenance and encouragement of faithful Ministers of such Congregations as are represented in the National Conference, many of them having been established through the agency or support of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association. There is here therefore already a co-operation between these institutions, as there is also between them and the District Associations. What is especially desirable

is to draw the bonds of sympathy closer, and make the co-operation more thorough and efficient.

Two main purposes to this end stand out prominently :—

(1) To relieve the British and Foreign Unitarian Association from the responsibility (of which it would be glad to be free) of contributing towards the maintenance of the ministry in the older Churches ;

(2) To give more adequate support than is at present possible to the maintenance of the ministry generally where the work is being satisfactorily done.

To attain these purposes, it is evident that additional funds are required, and there is little doubt that if a united appeal could be made by representatives of our Funds and Societies, speaking through the voice of the next Conference, there would be a generous response from the members of our Churches, provided that some well-considered scheme were presented.

At this stage the co-operation of the Augmentation and Sustentation Funds was invited and cordially given, and since then representatives of both Funds have sat on the Joint-Committee.

Various proposals have since been considered by the Joint-Committee, and finally the following Report was unanimously adopted.

Report of the Joint Committee on Ministerial Stipends Adopted December 14th, 1911

The Joint Committee, composed of Representatives of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the National Conference, the Stipend Augmentation Fund, and the Sustentation Fund, having appointed a Sub-Committee

consisting of Revs. Joseph Wood, C. J. Street, and Mr. C. F. Pearson, to make confidential inquiries as to the Stipends of Ministers in England and Wales, and to offer suggestions thereon, and having given careful consideration to the result of these inquiries and the consequent suggestions, have now much pleasure in being able to present a unanimous report.

The Sub-Committee stated that in response to a circular, 234 replies were received from churches, several failed to reply, and two refused information.

Of the 234 replies received, 105 were of stipends of £200 a year and above, while 129 were of stipends less than £200 a year. It is noticeable that of this latter number, only 15 are self-supporting, that is, are not aided by grants from any Association, Society, or Fund outside their own walls.

At the last meeting of the Committee, it was urged that the minimum stipend for cities and large towns should not be less than £200 a year; but when the returns came to be tabulated it was seen that this would necessitate raising a very much larger sum than had been contemplated or seemed possible.

After careful consideration, the Joint Committee suggests that the Sustentation Fund should aim at securing the following scale of stipends, namely :—

For Agricultural Districts in England	..	..	£120
For Towns and populous places in England	..		150
For Cities and large Towns in England	..	..	175
For Agricultural Districts in Wales	..	..	110
For Towns and populous places in Wales	..	..	140

It is understood that the Managers of the Augmentation Fund are prepared to take over the whole of England for Augmentation purposes, and that the Managers of the Sustentation Fund are prepared to deal with the whole of England and Wales for Sustentation purposes, so far as they are enabled to do so by the proposed new Fund.

The fundamental distinction between the two Funds is, that the Augmentation Fund makes its grants personally and privately to Ministers, and has regard to their character and

qualifications ; while the Sustentation Fund makes its grants to Congregations, and has regard to their financial needs—taking care, of course, also that the Ministers are duly accredited. The Managers of the two Funds have always worked harmoniously, and, as the happy result of a recent Conference, a closer working understanding has been reached. It is agreed that, as a general rule, the scale of stipends given above may be accepted as defining the distinction between Sustentation and Augmentation, and as limiting the cases in which the Sustentation Fund will be available for the future.

[To prevent possible misapprehension it may be interpolated here that the intention of the last sentence is, that while the Augmentation Fund may make grants to Ministers, whose stipends are either higher or lower than the scale given above, the Sustentation Fund, as a general rule, will not make grants to Congregations able to pay a stipend on the above scale.]

It is estimated that a capital sum of £35,000, or its equivalent in Annual Subscriptions, is required in order to meet the pressing and immediate needs of the poorly-paid Ministers, and it is recommended that the sum raised should be handed over to the Sustentation Fund for Sustentation purposes.

[It is calculated that of this sum the Churches benefited could provide, in addition to their present contribution, another £200 a year for ministerial stipends, which would be equal to a capital sum of £5,000. This would leave £30,000 to be raised, and it is recommended that a Joint Appeal be made to secure this amount for Sustentation purposes.]

This estimate has been arrived at after careful consideration

of somewhat complex conditions. There are some congregations in which the opportunities are too limited to occupy the full time of an efficient minister ; in such cases the system of grouping, or the appointment of a ' Lay-Worker,' or of a semi-retired minister, or of a man who has some other resource than his stipend, is necessary. Again, there are congregations which, as a condition of receiving increased financial help, may be reasonably expected to make a larger contribution to the stipend of their minister. Moreover, circumstances fluctuate. A change for the better might at any time bring some smaller places, which at present cannot fulfil the conditions of the Sustentation Fund, within its purview ; while, on the other hand, a change for the worse in some of the aided churches might take them out of the list of cases to be considered. The Committee realizes that each case must be dealt with on its own merits and in the light of all the facts, and always on the following conditions :—

- (1) The Minister must be an accredited Minister (not a ' Lay-Worker ') whose name appears in the Year Book.
- (2) His work must be deemed efficient and his field of work deemed adequate.
- (3) The local contribution (apart from Endowments) must be considered satisfactory.
- (4) The fact and amount of grants from the Sustentation Fund must be published.

THE CIRCUIT SYSTEM.

In pursuance of the Bolton Resolution a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the Circuit System, upon which a carefully considered Report was prepared. This Report was then circulated among the District Associations in England and Wales, and in the light of the criticism received from them was revised and finally adopted by the Com-

mittee for recommendation to the Conference, as follows :—

APRIL, 1911.

The Sub-Committee, appointed by the Conference Committee in January, 1910, to consider and report on the Circuit System, prepared a statement of the objects in view, and of the way in which the system might be worked in our Churches, with illustrations of its application in several typical places and districts. This Statement was accepted, with a few minor alterations, by the Conference Committee in April, 1910, and was ordered to be circulated among the District Associations for their consideration and judgment,—the Rev. Joseph Wood kindly offering to confer with any Association which might desire to invite him.

Of the seventeen Associations and Provincial Assemblies in England and Wales, the Eastern and Western Unions, the North Lancashire and Westmoreland Association, and the Southern Unitarian Association replied that the system would not be practicable in their districts.

The Liverpool District Association replied that the system is not required in its district, and that it is not in a position to express an opinion about it.

The London District Unitarian Society stated that it has no opinion to offer.

The Northumberland and Durham Association gave a partial approval of the scheme.

Six Associations, viz., those of the Manchester, the North Midland, and the Midland Districts, the Lancashire and Cheshire and the London and South Eastern Counties Provincial Assemblies, and the South East Wales Unitarian Society, gave a general approval, suggesting various amendments, none of them, however, affecting the main principle. Further, it is understood that the East Cheshire and the Yorkshire Unions are both in accord with the principles as a whole.

The North and East Lancashire Mission commended the system to the Churches, wherever practicable or advisable.

The South Wales Unitarian Association has not replied.

It will be seen that the area covered by the nine approving, and the one partially approving Association, covers the large residential centres of the country, and, with the exception of Liverpool and Bristol, includes all the great cities and three-fourths of the population.

In view of so large an agreement of opinion, the Sub-Committee recommends the Conference Committee to give its approval to the general idea of co-operation as set forth in the following revised statement on the Circuit System, and to invite the Conference to accept the same.

1. The object of the Circuit System is to provide for the grouping of neighbouring Churches into a kind of Federation which, while uniting them for purposes of mutual assistance and common service, leaves the individual church free and independent in the management of its own affairs.

2. Since the conditions of churches and districts widely differ, room must be left for much variety and elasticity in the application, even where the general idea of federation is accepted. Local circumstances or feelings may make it impracticable or undesirable to institute the Circuit System at all.

3. The assistance to be rendered is not *primarily* of a pecuniary nature, although in some cases that might follow. What is contemplated is the interchange of ministerial and other services and such joint common action as may be deemed desirable, on the lines suggested in the following clauses.

4. The Circuit or Federated Church would have nothing to do with the appointment of Ministers, except of aided churches, or the appointment of a missionary, or when asked for advice, or where funds are pooled to provide for ministerial stipends.

5. The first step when the general idea is accepted by any

Local Association or by any group of Churches would be the appointment of a representative Council, which might, e.g., consist of the Ministers of the united Churches, lay delegates, and delegates from the local Association, including one from the Lay Preachers' Association, when its services are given. The first business of the Council would be the election of a Chairman and the necessary officers.

6. The Circuit Council might meet once a quarter and arrange for an exchange of preachers on one Sunday in the coming quarter, and, where necessary, it might organize the Lay Preachers and publish a quarterly Preachers' Plan. It might consult as to the needs of the district, compare plans of Church work, arrange united meetings, and promote common action. The services of the Chairman for the time being would be at the disposal of any of the Churches in difficulties that may arise.

7. If thought desirable the Circuit Council might issue monthly a Circuit Calendar, containing announcements of Services, Preachers, Meetings, etc., each Church having its own column or page. In addition, the meetings and claims of the Local Association might be brought to the notice of the members of the Churches, with other matters of special interest.

8. The following Examples show how the Circuit System might be adapted to differing conditions.

(Ex. A.) embraces five Churches, four with Ministers, and one layman's or mission church. Two of the churches and the layman's church are in the city, and two are within five miles of the city. One of the city churches is strong and wealthy; the other is an aided church. Of the two outside the city, one, in an agricultural district, is, owing to endowments, self-supporting; the other, in a manufacturing village, is largely aided. Communication in the district is easy. The Chairman of the Circuit, if a Minister, will preach one Sunday in the year at each of the other churches, including the layman's church. That will take him away from his own church on four Sundays in the year. On the occasion of the Chair-

man's visit, the three other ministers will exchange. Each of the Circuit Ministers will regard himself in some measure as being at the call of any of the Circuit Churches. In such a district a United Service once a year would be quite feasible.

(Ex. B.) Four Churches and three Ministers. Two of the churches in country towns and self-supporting; two in manufacturing villages, one of them aided and one unable to support a minister. The extreme distance between these churches is fifteen miles, but the means of communication make them easily accessible to each other. The three ministers with lay preachers' help will carry on the church which is without a minister, and the Chairman will be responsible for its general oversight.

(Ex. C.) Three Churches within four miles of each other in a manufacturing district. Not one can be called strong and not one is self-supporting. The united stipends of the three amount to £450 a year. Under the Circuit System these churches will have two ministers,—an experienced man at £250 a year, with a younger man for colleague at £200. Each church will contribute its quota to the stipends, which will be paid by the Circuit Treasurer, and each church will have a voice in the election of the two ministers.

(Ex. D.) Five self-supporting Churches within a radius of four miles, each with its own minister. In such a case it would be desirable that two aided churches, even though at some distance from the centre, should be associated with the Circuit. If this is not practicable the Circuit would still fulfil many of the functions of a Circuit, by its united Calendar, its exchange of services, its meetings and conferences, and its plans for the development of new work.

9. Under the auspices of the Manchester District Association four Congregations, viz., Broughton, Chorlton, Upper Brook Street, and Urmston, resolved from January 1st, 1910, to make an experiment for three years of the Circuit System under the charge of a Senior and a Junior Minister. Difficulties, some of which were foreseen, while others could not be

anticipated, have been met with, and it is still too soon to say that all expectations have been fulfilled. But there is a feeling of hope in those who are engaged in directing the operations of the plan, and encouraging signs are not wanting in the congregations which appear to warrant a confident outlook upon the future. It may possibly happen that the plan, while successful in other respects, will not solve the financial difficulties which chiefly led to its adoption. However this may be, the pioneers in this enterprise will receive warmest sympathy and best wishes in their efforts.

10. It is suggested that the Circuits, unless independently arranged, should be proposed in outline by the Local Associations, and that, as far as practicable, the grouping should be of Churches in the same Association. Each Circuit should make a yearly report to its Association, with such statistics as may be required. Except when Circuits combine their funds for ministerial stipends, it is not essential that they should have funds of their own. The Circuit system is intended not to supersede, but to strengthen the Local Association.

11. Where it is found impracticable or undesirable to institute the Circuit System in a particular district, weak churches might well be linked with stronger ones to mutual advantage, and in the interests of Federation.

12. The Circuit System in promoting co-operative action, organized fellowship, and a sense of common collective life, has chiefly in view not the financial but the religious welfare of our Churches, making them by renewed zeal and interest in the worship, which is the life of the Churches, more effective instruments for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

H. ENFIELD DOWSON, *Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS.

This Committee, composed of representatives of the Conference, of the Manchester (Oxford), Unitarian

Home Missionary, and Carmarthen Colleges, and of the Ministerial Fellowship, has been at work in different directions.

(1) In order to assist men, who have satisfied an Advisory Committee that they possess important qualifications for the ministry, but who have not had and, for various reasons, cannot now obtain a collegiate training, a Course of Reading, extending over three years, has been prepared for Lay-Workers on Probation, in which an annual examination is held. The scheme is intended for exceptional cases only, and not in any way to take the place of a collegiate training, wherever that is possible. There is reason to believe that for a certain number of men this will be a real boon, while it will also tend to maintain the intellectual standard of the ministry. (See Appendix A.)

(2) The following Appeal has been prepared and sent to the Secretary of each Congregation, pointing out the urgent need of a larger supply of Students for the Ministry from within these congregations. The Rev. Dr. Carpenter has also delivered impressive addresses on the same subject to representative gatherings in different parts of the country.

DEAR SIR,

The Committee, being charged with the duty of securing for the Congregations on the Roll of the Conference a better and more abundant Supply of Ministers, look to the Congregations themselves and their Ministers to assist them. Dr. Carpenter, in a recent powerful address at the last Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly of Lancashire and Cheshire, drew attention to the fact that the Supply of Students for

the Ministry from our own Congregations is entirely inadequate, and has to be largely supplemented from other sources. It is in no narrow sectarian spirit that this Committee, like Dr. Carpenter, lament this failure of our Congregations to take their fitting part in supplying their own Ministry. A Communion that does not send into its pulpits in a larger degree than now its own sons is not in a condition of spiritual health.

While Ministers, who come to us from outside, are welcomed, our Ministry demands also those who are born and bred in our faith, representing principles and characteristics that are our very breath of life. We want men familiar with our ways, nursed in our traditions, types of a life and thought we fain would see perpetuated in our midst. In order more largely to reach this indigenous source for our Ministry, the Committee desire to enlist the active interest and co-operation of our Congregations and their Ministers. It rests with them to look out for youths of promise for the ministry ; it rests, above all, with parents to encourage such of their sons as feel a call to enter its ranks. The Committee make the most earnest appeal, accordingly, to Congregations, Ministers, and Parents to help in fulfilling the task of drawing into this sacred calling the best and most cultured of our sons.

While this appeal is, first and foremost, for men, the Committee are also deeply impressed with the fact, increasingly obvious in all branches of the Christian Church, that the ministry is being more and more recruited from that portion of the community, whose means are inadequate to maintain students during their years of preparation. Although this is largely met by our Colleges in financial assistance rendered during their regular courses, whether in the form of Scholarships, Exhibitions, or maintenance, there remains room for our Congregations to step in with their quota of help. It is not uncommon in other communions for money to be raised by Congregations or Districts to send up youths of their own to their denominational Colleges. There is no better testimony

to a man's fitness for the ministry than such congregational backing, or other assistance of a more private nature. Financial help is often especially needed to enable candidates to prepare for the Entrance Examination to College. Young men desire to present themselves who have had no classical training, and before they can sit for examination for admission they have to go through a period of study, during which earnings must be sacrificed and tuition paid for. It is for pecuniary help of this kind accordingly that the Committee appeal, as well as for the selection and encouragement of fitting applicants for the Ministry.

This appeal is not made in the interest of any particular College. What the Committee would propose is :—

- (1) That the Ministers and Congregations should be on the look-out for Candidates whom they can recommend for approval to this Committee representing these Congregations.
- (2) That such Committee should not only administer funds provided for the above purposes, but also do their best for approved candidates, having regard to their circumstances and education, first, in advising preparatory study and enabling them to make use of local opportunities of culture ; second, in arranging for their entrance into a University or Theological College (as may be deemed best), and maintaining supervision throughout the course, through the personal interest and special advice of those most qualified to give guidance in each individual case.
- (3) That while such Committee cannot contract for special terms with Colleges as to standards and conditions of admission, they would make use of the College that best meets each case. The fact that the Student sent up under this scheme would have a first obligation to the Congregations and the representative Committee (not solely to the College he entered) should not be overlooked as having influence on his future career.

The Committee commend these proposals to the earnest consideration of Congregations on the Roll of the Conference and their Ministers, and will be grateful for communications from them in reply, saying how far they may see their way to co-operation in the scheme, pecuniary or otherwise ; and if pecuniary, whether in subvention of individual cases, or of a General Fund.

On behalf of the Committee,

We are, truly yours,

H. ENFIELD DOWSON, *President.*

J. W. SCOTT, *Treasurer.*

JAMES HARWOOD, *Secretary.*

(to whom all communications should be sent at

60, Howitt Road,

Hampstead,

London, N.W.)

(3) A scheme has been prepared for facilitating the preparation of those who offer themselves as candidates for the Ministry. (See Appendix B.) No question more nearly concerns the future of our Churches, and the Committee will be grateful for suggestions and offers of assistance to its endeavours.

MINISTERIAL SETTLEMENTS BOARD.

This Board, whose establishment was approved at Bolton, has been at work for two years on the lines there agreed to. The Ministerial Fellowship, which had previously rendered valuable service to both Ministers and Congregations, handed over its work to the new Board, on which it is represented, and has been of great assistance in the larger work which is now undertaken. In rather less than two years

33 Congregations and 70 Ministers have sought the help of the Board—figures which prove how greatly it was needed.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Every part of England and Wales is now assigned to an Advisory Committee. 24 Ministers and Lay-Workers have been reported as having received recognition from one or other. It is to be remembered that the very existence of these Committees produces a wholesome effect which cannot be measured, in warning off unsuitable men, who might otherwise induce unwary Congregations to appoint them as their Ministers.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, &c.

Following up one of the Papers read at Bolton the Committee issued the following Circular to all Congregations on the Roll, dealing with the question of the Organization and Membership of Congregations. It is hoped that much inconvenience and serious mischief that have occurred in the past may be prevented in the future, by calling attention to the matter in this way.

APRIL, 1911.

In October, 1908, the Committee issued a series of questions to the Congregations on the Roll of the Conference with regard to their system of Organization and Membership. Out of 351 Congregations, 236 (including almost all the larger ones) sent replies. On the basis of these replies the Committee

believes that it will be generally helpful to make the following suggestions and recommendations.

1. Every Congregation should have a Register of duly qualified Members, a Minute Book of its business proceedings, and a Cash Book, all kept in regular order and up to date. A convenient set of Secretary's and Treasurer's Books may be obtained from Essex Hall. A safe or strong box should be provided for the safe keeping of Minute Books, Marriage and Christening Registers, and other records of a permanent character.

2. (a) The age of 18 seems to be a usual one qualifying for full membership. Junior or Associate Members are frequently admitted at the age of 14 or 16, without the privilege of voting. There is little doubt that our Churches might be greatly strengthened if more attention were paid and more effective means were taken to win the adhesion of a larger portion of the junior members of the families and of the elder scholars in the Sunday school. Churches should, in larger measure, support and foster the Sunday School.

(b) There are wide differences as to the pecuniary qualification. It is manifest that, to meet the requirements of Minister's stipend and the management and upkeep of the Church, a regular and assured income is necessary. The Committee therefore recommends that there should be a minimum payment of 1/- and upwards within the means of all, and that, in addition, members should be invited, where possible, according to their ability and generosity, to promise and pay definite sums as quarterly subscriptions ; or weekly, through the offertory, by means of the envelope or otherwise. The Committee believes that Free Seats are to be preferred to Allotted Seats and Pew Rents. Trust-deeds making seat-holding the sole qualification of membership are to be deprecated.

(c) Many Congregations report that, before admission, enquiries are made as to the character of persons seeking membership. The Committee, however, does not recommend

the practice, which is inconsistent with the principle of open fellowship. It would be a grave responsibility, either to turn away from Christian discipleship any who desired to adopt it, or to vouch for the worthiness of all who may pass a test, which must necessarily be superficial and misleading. On the other hand, it is both reasonable and desirable that in the selection of Officers every care should be taken to choose those only who enjoy the confidence and respect of their fellow-members.

3. The Committee strongly recommends to the consideration of all our Congregations the practice adopted in some, of holding an annual Service of Recognition or Welcome to new members. In the case of young people this is usually preceded with great advantage by a Minister's Preparation Class.

4. Members should be enrolled at least twelve months before exercising the privilege of voting.

5. The Committee earnestly recommends that more systematic endeavours should be made to prevent the lapses which frequently occur when members remove from one place to another. A note of introduction to the Minister or Secretary would cost little trouble and often lead to the happiest results. Cards for this purpose may be obtained from Essex Hall.

6. It is most desirable to have a Congregational Committee or Council elected, after due nomination, at the Annual Meeting. A very usual and convenient plan is to have a Committee of 9 or 12 (in addition to Treasurer and Secretary) of whom one-third retire in succession annually and are ineligible for re-election for one year. Thus the advantage of continuity is secured without the danger of stagnation.

7. New Trustees should be chosen by the Congregation rather than by co-option by the surviving Trustees.

8. In former days troubles were apt to arise between Trustees and Congregations, which happily are now rare. The Trust-Deed often directs the method of government,

but where important matters, such as the appointment of Minister, are vested in the Trustees, it is usual for them to consult and accept the wishes of the Congregation. The Committee cordially recommends this arrangement in such cases.

H. ENFIELD DOWSON, *Chairman*.

LIST OF MINISTERS.

The Committee has pleasure in reporting that during the last triennial term effective co-operation has been established between the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the National Conference, and the Ministerial Fellowship in the important and delicate task of annually revising the list of Ministers in the Essex Hall Year Book. The arrangement has worked harmoniously, and there is every reason to expect that it will be continued, with the approval of all concerned. The results of the Committee's Revision year by year appear in the Essex Hall Year Book.

ROLL.

The following Chapels now disappear from the Roll, having been closed: Canterbury, Heaton Moor, Byker, and Yeovil. On the other hand, Boston Mills is now restored to the Roll, and Bradford (Broadway Avenue), West Kirby, Finchley, and Bolton-on-Dearne have been added during the present term.

The Committee has acceded to applications from the Missionary Conference, the British League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women, the

Conference Union for Social Service, and the Sheffield and District Association of Churches, to be affiliated to the Conference. It also recommends the Conference (which alone has the power) to comply with the request of the last three to be added to the list of Societies in Rule 7 entitled to elect a member on the Committee.

PEACE.

The Committee has lost no opportunity of joining in important efforts to promote International Peace. The Rev. F. K. Freeston and the late Rev. Henry Rawlings (until he removed from London) represented the Conference on the National Council of Peace Societies, and the Committee warmly supported the proposed Treaty of Arbitration between this country and the United States of America. Unhappily there has recently been an ominous gathering of the war-clouds on different sides, and it is for the churches and religious people of every name throughout the world to unite in fostering a spirit more worthy of a Christian civilization.

DEPUTATIONS.

The Conference has been represented at one or more Annual Meetings of all the District Associations in England and Wales; also at the International Conference in Berlin in 1910, and at the Universal Races Congress in London in 1911. In reply to invitations to appoint a representative to the Annual Meetings of the Protestantbond in Holland, letters of greeting and sympathy have been sent.

FINANCE.

The Committee regrets that it cannot yet report the finances to be in a satisfactory condition. The Annual Statement of Accounts is sent to each Congregation and Association on the Roll. The last Statement (to July, 1911), showed a debt to the Treasurer of £24 17s. 3d. During the last three years the following particulars may be noted :—

	1908-09	1909-10	1910-11
No. of Congregations Subscribing	134	126	133
No. of Associations Subscribing	9	9	12
No. of Private Subscribers ..	11	11	13
Amount contributed	£189 17 10	£185 19 9	£185 1 0
Balance due to Treasurer at end of year	£1 5 6	£10 9 10	£24 17 3

What is needed to meet the growing work of the Conference is an assured income of £250 to £300. There would not be the least difficulty in raising this sum, without undue strain, if every Congregation and Association on the Roll would as a matter of honour bear its fair share in this common responsibility.

H. ENFIELD DOWSON,
President.

Appendix A (see p. 22).

The following Scheme of Reading has been prepared especially for Lay Workers on Probation who desire eventually to be admitted into the regular ministry. It is intended to cover three years, and embraces four subjects, the Old and New Testaments, Church History, and Philosophy. A fifth subject, the Work of the Minister, with the practical preparation of Sermons, etc., will be dealt with under a separate arrangement.

In the first four prescribed subjects an Examination will be held in October of each year. The first occasion, if any candidate presents himself, will arrive in October, 1911. The Biblical subjects, I and II, will be compulsory throughout the course, but an alternative is offered between III and IV, in such a way, however, that some portion of both subjects will be studied in the course of the triennial period. The course will be as follows :—

First year, I¹, II¹, III¹ (or IV¹).

Second year, I², II², IV¹ (or III¹).

Third year, I³, II³, III² or ³ (or IV² or ³).

Special importance will be attached to a competent and accurate knowledge of the *contents* of the prescribed portions of the Bible.

Two Sermons and two brief Outlines of Sermons will be expected in each of the three years.

Throughout (a) represents books prescribed; (b) books recommended (but not prescribed) for the guidance of the more educated or advanced students who may wish for further reading.

Arrangements have been made to lend to intending candidates some of the more expensive books.

Those who intend to present themselves for examination must first be approved by an Advisory Committee.

FIRST YEAR.

I—OLD TESTAMENT.

- (a) *Genesis*, with Bennett's Commentary in 'Century Bible' (Jack, 2/6 net); WELLHAUSEN, art. 'Israel' in *Encycl. Britan.*, 9th ed., down to the Captivity; this can be read in a public library; (published separately as *History of Israel and Judah*, A. & C. Black, 6/-); MONTEFIORE, *Hibbert Lectures*, i and ii (Williams & Norgate, 3/6).
- (b) For Reference: DRIVER, *Commentary on Genesis* (Methuen, 10/6); On the Historical literature as far as II Kings, WEATHERALL, *Books of the Old Testament* (S.S.A., 2/6 net), or CORNILL, *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Williams & Norgate, 10/6 net); On the history, H. PRESERVED SMITH, *Old Testament History* (T. & T. Clarke, 12/-).

II—NEW TESTAMENT.

- (a) *Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Revised Version), with Caryl's Commentary in *International Handbooks* (Putnams, 7/6); NEUMANN, *Jesus* (transl. by Canney, Black, 2/6 net); CARPENTER, *First Three Gospels* (B. & F. U. A., 6d. and 2/- net); HOLLMANN, *Jewish Religion in the Time of Jesus* (B. & F. U. A., 2/- net).
- (b) For Reference: WERNLE, *Sources of our Knowledge of the Life of Jesus* (B. & F. U. A., 2/- net); BURKITT, *Gospel History and its Transmission* (T. & T. Clark, 6/- net); PFLEIDERER, *Primitive Christianity*, vol. ii (Williams & Norgate, 10/6 net).

III—CHURCH HISTORY.

- (a) ADDIS, *Christianity and the Roman Empire* (S. S. A., 2/6 net); THOMAS, *The Early Church, its Orders and Institutions* (S. S. A., 2/6 net); RÉVILLE, *History of the Doctrine of the Deity of Christ*, first period (B. & F. U. A., 2/6 net).

- (b) For Reference : A. V. G. ALLEN, *Christian Institutions* —to end of 'Monasticism' (T. & T. Clark, 12/-) ; HARNACK, *History of Dogma*, vol. i (Williams & Norgate, 10/6).

IV—PHILOSOPHY.

- (a) WILLIAM JAMES, *Talks to Teachers* (Longmans, 4/6) ; ARMSTRONG, *God and the Soul* (B. & F. U. A., 6d. and 2/- net) ; CANNAN, *Elementary Political Economy*, Frowde, 1/-).
- (b) For Reference : UPTON, *Hibbert Lectures* (Williams & Norgate, 3/6), and *Philosophy of James Martineau* (B. & F. U. A., 3/6 net) ; EVERETT, *Psychological Elements of Religion* (Macmillan, 5/- net) ; MELLONE, *Converging Lines of Religious Thought* (B. & F. U. A., 2/- net) ; MARSHALL, *Economics of Industry* (Macmillan, 3/6).

V—MINISTERIAL WORK.

- SPURGEON, *Lectures to my Students*, vol. i (Passmore, 2/- net).

SECOND YEAR.

I—OLD TESTAMENT.

- (a) Amos, with Driver's Commentary (Cambridge Bible, 2/6 net) ; *Isaiah* xl-lxvi, with HERFORD'S Commentary (S. S. A., 1/- net) ; MONTEFIORE, *Hibbert Lectures*, iii-v (Williams & Norgate, 3/6).
- (b) For Reference : Prophetic Books in WEATHERALL, *Books of the Old Testament* (S. S. A., 2/6 net), or CORNILL, *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Williams & Norgate, 10/6 net) ; CORNILL, *Prophets of Israel* (Kegan Paul, 1/6) ; DRIVER, *Book of the Prophet Jeremiah* (Hodder & Stoughton, 6/-) ; CHEYNE, *Jeremiah, his Life and Times* (Nisbet, 2/6).

II—NEW TESTAMENT.

- (a) Subject matter of *Acts*, with FORBES's Commentary (International Handbooks, iv, Putnams, 7/6) ; and of *Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians*, with Dr. DRUMMOND's Commentary, do. vol. ii. (B. & F. U. A., 3/6 net) ; VON DOBSCHÜTZ, *The Apostolic Age* (B. & F. U. A., 2/- net).
- (b) For Reference : WEINEL, *Paul, the Man and his Work* (Williams & Norgate, 10/6) ; WERNLE, *Beginnings of Christianity*, vol. i, pts. II and III (Williams & Norgate, 10/6) ; PFLEIDERER, *Primitive Christianity*, vol. i (Williams & Norgate, 10/6) ; WREDE, *Paul* (B. & F. U. A., 2/- net).

III—CHURCH HISTORY.

- (a) HARNACK, *What is Christianity ?* (Williams & Norgate, 5/-) ; BEARD, *Hibbert Lectures* (Williams & Norgate, 3/6).
- (b) For Reference : MCGIFFERT, *Apostolic Age* (T. & T. Clark, 12/-) ; SCHUBERT, *Outlines of Church History* (Williams & Norgate, 10/6 net).

IV—PHILOSOPHY

- (a) FISKE, *Man's Destiny* (Macmillan, 3/6 net), and *Idea of God* (Macmillan, 3/6 net) ; RITCHIE, *Principles of State Interference* (Sonnenschein, 1/-) ; HOBHOUSE, *The Labour Movement* (Unwin, 3/6).
- (b) For Reference : PRINGLE-PATTISON, *Man's Place in the Cosmos* (Blackwood, 6/- net) ; SETH, *Study of Ethical Principles* (Blackwood, 7/6) ; GREEN, *Principles of Political Obligation* (Longmans, 5/-) ; RITCHIE, *Darwinism and Politics* (Sonnenschein, 2/6) ; F. G. PEABODY, *Approach to the Social Question* (Macmillan, 5/- net).

V—MINISTERIAL WORK.

- R. W. DALE, *Nine Lectures on Preaching* (Hodder & Stoughton, 6/-).

THIRD YEAR.

I—OLD TESTAMENT.

- (a) *Job* (with Peake's Commentary, 'Century Bible,' 2/6), and *Daniel* (with Driver's Commentary, Cambridge Bible, 2/6 net); SKINNER, *Historical Connection between Old and New Testament* (Clark, 6d.); MONTEFIORE, *Hibbert Lectures*, vi-ix (Williams & Norgate, 3/6).
- (b) For Reference: CHEYNE, *Job and Solomon* (Kegan Paul & Co., 12/6); FAIRWEATHER, *Background of the Gospels* (T. & T. Clark, 8/- net); Literature of 'Wisdom' in WEATHERALL, *Books of the Old Testament* (S. S. A., 2/6 net), or CORNILL, *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Williams & Norgate, 10/6 net).

II—NEW TESTAMENT.

- (a) Fourth Gospel and I John, with Forbes's Commentary, *International Handbooks* (Putnams, 7/6); SCOTT, *The Fourth Gospel* (T. & T. Clark, 6/- net).
- (b) For Reference: WERNLE, *Beginnings of Christianity*, vol. ii (Williams & Norgate, 10/6); DRUMMOND, *Character and Authorship of the Fourth Gospel* (Williams and Norgate, 10/6).

III—CHURCH HISTORY.

- (a) SYLVESTER HORNE, *Popular History of the Free Churches* (Jas. Clarke & Co., 2/6 net); GORDON, *Heads of Unitarian History* (B. & F. U. A., 1/- net); DRUMMOND, *Studies in Christian Doctrine* (B. & F. U. A., 10/6 net).
- (b) For Reference: TAYLER, *Retrospect of the Religious Life, etc.*, with Martineau's Introduction (Trübner); PFLEIDERER, *Development of Theology* (Sonnenschein, 10/6).

IV—PHILOSOPHY.

- (a) MELLONE, *Leaders of Religious Thought* (W. Blackwood, 6/- net); CARPENTER, *James Martineau, Theologian and Teacher* (B. & F. U. A., 7/6 net); BOUSSET, *What is Religion?* (Fisher Unwin, 5/- net).
- (b) For Reference: MARTINEAU, *The Seat of Authority* (Longmans, 7/6); RITCHIE, *Natural Rights* (Sonnen-schien, 10/6); EUCKEN, *The Life of the Spirit* (Williams & Norgate, 5/-).

V—MINISTERIAL WORK.

- PHILIPS BROOKS, *Lectures on Preaching* (Allenson, 2/6 net).
 Recommended: JEFFERSON, *Quiet Hints to Growing Preachers in my Study* (J. Clarke & Co., 3/- net).

Appendix B (see p. 25).

1. The Committee would promote the advancement of suitable candidates for the Ministry. It would take steps to bring the Ministry as a vocation for young men from time to time before the Churches at the meetings of local associations and similar gatherings, and would correspond with Ministers and others in different parts of the kingdom. It would advise concerning the preparation of young men who have not received any kind of public school training, and would put them in connection with someone who could aid their studies.

2. It would receive and consider applications and advise candidates as to the facilities offered by the several Colleges, and commend them as students for the ministry.

3. For candidates who satisfied the authorities of the several Colleges, and who in specific cases required additional aid beyond the ordinary College bursary, the Committee, with the help of the usual Trust Funds and the means indicated in §4, would provide assistance.

4. Students who might be unable completely to fulfil the conditions prescribed by the Colleges for bursaries, but might still be deemed suitable for ministerial work and capable of profiting by a course of study in any of the Colleges, should be aided by the Committee out of a Fund partly raised by private subscriptions, and partly contributed by the churches of the district from which any such students might be drawn. The Colleges should then be requested to receive such students 'free to Lectures' on the foundation of the Committee for Supply. The Committee would receive Reports from the Colleges year by year concerning the progress of students aided by the Committee, and would be able ultimately to promote their settlement in suitable fields of work.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer's Statements and the Lists of Subscribers have been circulated annually, and are therefore not repeated here. The Accounts are made up to June 30th. Subscriptions are due July 1st, and should be sent to the Secretary.

During the Triennial Term contributions—most of them annual—have been received from the following Congregations, Associations and Friends :—

ENGLAND.

Accrington.	Crewe.
Altrincham.	Crewkerne.
Bath.	Cullompton.
Belper.	Darlington.
Billingshurst.	Dean Row.
Birkenhead.	Derby.
Birmingham—	Dewsbury.
Church of the Messiah.	Ditchling.
Hurst Street.	Doncaster.
Old Meeting.	Dover.
Blackburn.	Dudley.
Bolton—Bank Street.	Dukinfield.
Halliwell Road.	Elland.
Unity Church.	Evesham.
Boston.	Exeter.
Bournemouth.	Flowery Field.
Bradford—	Frenchay.
Chapel Lane.	Gateshead.
Broadway Avenue.	Gee Cross.
Bridgwater.	Glossop.
Bridport.	Gloucester.
Brighton.	Hale.
Bristol—Lewin's Mead.	Halifax.
Burnley.	Heywood.
Bury—Chesham.	Hinckley.
Bury St. Edmunds.	Hull.
Chatham.	Ilminster.
Chester.	Ipswich.
Chesterfield.	Leeds—Holbeck.
Cirencester.	Mill Hill.
Chowbent.	Leicester—Great Meeting.
Clifton.	Narborough Rd.
Colne.	Leigh.
Congleton.	Lewes.
	Liscard.

Liverpool—
 Ancient Ch. of Toxteth.
 Hope Street.
 Mill Street.
 Ullet Road

London—Bell Street.
 Brixton.
 Essex Church.
 Hampstead.
 Kilburn.
 Limehouse.
 Mansford Street.
 University Hall.
 Wandsworth.

Lydgate.

Macclesfield.

Maidstone.

Manchester—

Bradford.

Cross Street.

Dob Lane.

Gorton.

Lower Mosley Street.

Moss Side.

Pendleton.

Platt.

Sale.

Mansfield.

Middlesbrough.

Monton.

Mossley.

Mottram.

Newcastle (Staffs.)

Newchurch.

Newport (I. W.)

Northampton.

Norwich.

Nottingham—High Pavmnt.

Oldham.

Oxford—Manchester College.

Padiham.

Park Lane.

Poole.

Preston.

Rawtenstall.

Ringwood.

Rivington.

Rotherham.

St. Helens.

Scarborough.

Sheffield—Attercliffe.

Upper Chapel.

Upperthorpe.

Sidmouth.

Southampton.

Southport.

Stalybridge.

Stannington.

Stockport.

Stourbridge.

Tamworth.

Todmorden.

Torquay.

Walsall.

Warrington.

West Bromwich.

WALES.

Aberdare—Highland Place.
 Old Meeting.

Aberystwyth.

Allt-y-placa.

Capel-y-bryn.

Capel-y-fadfa.

Cardiff.

Clydach Vale.

Lampeter.

Llwynrhydowen.

Pontypridd.

Swansea.

Sychbant.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh.

Glasgow—St. Vincent Street.

IRELAND.

Ballee.
 Ballycarry.
 Banbridge.
 Belfast—All Souls'.
 Mount Pottinger.
 Rosemary Street.
 Cairncastle.
 Crumlin.
 Comber.
 Dublin.
 Holywood.
 Moneyrea.

ASSEMBLIES AND
ASSOCIATIONS.

British League of Unitarian
 Women.
 East Cheshire Christian Union
 Eastern Union.
 Liverpool Dist. Miss. Assn.
 Manchester District Assn. of
 P. & U. Churches.
 Midland Christian Union.
 North and East Lancs. U. M.
 North Midland P. & U. Assn.

Northumberland and Durham
 Unitarian Association.
 Provincial Assembly of Lan-
 cashire and Cheshire.
 Provincial Assembly of Lon-
 don and S. E. Counties.
 Southern Unitarian Assn.
 South Wales Unitarian Assn.
 Western Union.

PERSONAL.

Aspland, Mrs. L. M.
 Bishop, Rev. J. W.
 Burrows, Rev. S.
 Carpenter, Rev. Dr. J. E.
 Elliot, Rev. Thos.
 Greg, H. P.
 Harrison, Jno.
 Holt, Mrs. Geo.
 Jones, David.
 Lawson, John.
 Monks, F. W.
 Nettlefold, F.
 Summers, Rev. F.
 Thorp, Mrs.
 Williams, L. N.

RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*As adopted at Leicester in 1900, and amended at Oxford in 1906,
and Bolton in 1909.*

1. This Conference shall be called 'The National Conference of Unitarian, Liberal Christian, Free Christian, Presbyterian, and other non-subscribing or kindred Congregations.' It shall meet at least once in every three years.

2. The following persons shall be members of the Conference and entitled to vote at all its meetings :—

(a) The minister or ministers of each congregation on the roll of the Conference.

(b) Two delegates from each congregation on the roll.
(It is understood that hospitality can be offered to one only).

(c) One delegate from each of the Societies enumerated in Rule 7.

(d) Ministers not in charge of congregations whose names are contained in the last Essex Hall Year Book.

(e) The Principal and all Professors on the permanent staff of Carmarthen College, Manchester College, Oxford, and the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.

(f) All officers and members of the Committee.

(g) All past Presidents.

(h) Any other person who may be elected a member by resolution passed at any Triennial Conference. Such membership shall continue for the period named in the resolution, or, if no period be named therein, for seven years.

3. The Secretary shall keep a roll or list of the congregations and societies that are entitled to send representatives to a Conference. Any congregation or society not on the roll may apply in writing for admission. Such application shall in the first place be considered by the Committee, which

may, by a resolution carried by two-thirds of the members present, at once place the name of such congregation or society on the roll. If two-thirds of the members of Committee present do not vote in favour of such resolution, the Committee shall not have power to add the name of such congregation or society to the roll. But the Committee may by a simple majority pass a resolution recommending the Conference to do so.

4. Any member of the Conference who has given at least twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention, may propose at any Triennial Conference a resolution that the name of any congregation or society be added to the roll, or that any person be elected a member of the Conference under Rule 2 (*h*). Any such resolution may also be proposed on behalf of the Committee, in which case it shall be sufficient if notice of it be given in or with the report of the Committee. In either case, such resolution must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

5. The business of the Conference, subject to any directions given at any meeting of the Conference, shall be managed by the Committee and the Officers. The Committee shall decide what papers shall be read and what resolutions shall be moved at each Triennial Conference.

6. The Committee shall consist of :—(*a*) Representatives chosen by the Societies enumerated in Rule 7. (*b*) Twelve persons to be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference. (*c*) Not more than six persons who may be elected from time to time by co-optation by those elected under clauses *a* and *b*. The Committee shall go out of office at the conclusion of each Triennial Conference.

7. Each of the following Societies shall have the right under Rule 6 (*a*), to elect a representative to serve on the Committee. The Secretary of each Society shall forward the name of its representative to the Secretary of the Conference, at least ten days before the assembling of each Triennial Conference.

ENGLAND : The Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association for Missionary purposes.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

The Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian and Unitarian Ministers and Congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission.

The Liverpool District Missionary Association.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches.

The East Cheshire Christian Union for Missionary purposes.

The North Midland Presbyterian and Unitarian Association.

The Midland Christian Union of Presbyterian, Unitarian, and other Non-subscribing Churches.

The Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The Provincial Assembly of London and the South Eastern Counties.

The London District Unitarian Society.

The Southern Unitarian Association.

The North Lancashire and Westmoreland Unitarian Association.

The Western Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

The General Baptist Assembly.

The Manchester College, Oxford.

The Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

The Sunday School Association.

The Central Postal Mission and Unitarian Workers Union.

WALES : The South Wales Unitarian Association.
 The South-East Wales Unitarian Society.
 The Presbyterian College, Carmarthen.

SCOTLAND : The Scottish Unitarian Association.

IRELAND : The Presbytery of Antrim.
 The Remonstrant Synod of Ulster.
 The United Presbytery or Synod of Munster.
 The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians.
 The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

8. The twelve persons to be elected by the members under Rule 6 (b) shall be nominated in the following manner :— Every congregation on the roll, and every Society enumerated in Rule 7, shall be invited to nominate some one person, who need not be a member of the congregation or society nominating, to serve on the Committee. The expiring Committee may also, if they think fit, nominate not more than six persons—not being members of the expiring Committee—to serve on the new Committee. All such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven days before the assembling of the Conference. He shall then prepare a list of the persons nominated, showing by whom each person is nominated, and shall cause the same to be printed and delivered to each member as soon as possible after his arrival in the town in which the Conference is held. No one whose name does not appear on such list shall be elected on the committee under Rule 6 (b), except by a unanimous vote of the members present.

9. From the persons nominated in accordance with Rule 8, twelve shall be elected in the following manner :—The President or other Chairman of the Meeting shall appoint Scrutineers. Each member shall make, on his copy of the list of persons nominated, a cross opposite the names of the persons for whom he intends to vote. The Scrutineers, if members, may vote. No member may vote for more than twelve persons to serve on the Committee. Each member

shall then sign his list with his name and address, and hand it as his voting paper to the Scrutineers. If any member who has been present during any portion of the Conference is compelled to leave before the Business Meeting, he may lodge his voting paper, duly signed, with the Secretary, enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed 'To the Scrutineers'; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to hand the same to the Scrutineers on behalf of such member.

10. The Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper which is not signed by a member, every voting paper on which more than twelve names (of those nominated for Committee) are marked, and every voting paper which is in their opinion unintelligible or equivocal. They shall then count the votes, and the Chairman shall announce the result to the meeting. The voting papers shall then be destroyed by the Secretary.

11. The Officers of the Conference shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, one or more Secretaries (Honorary or paid), and two Auditors. The Officers shall be elected by the members present at each Triennial Conference, and shall hold office till the conclusion of the next Triennial Conference. Honorary Officers shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

12. It shall be the duty of the expiring Committee to submit to each Triennial Conference the names of persons whom they deem qualified, and whom they have ascertained to be willing, to serve as Officers of the Conference. Any member present at any Triennial Conference may propose any other person for any office, and the vote shall be taken at the Business meeting by show of hands, unless an election by voting papers be demanded, in which case the Officers shall be elected in the same manner as the Committee.

13. The Committee may fill up any vacancy which may occur on the Committee or in any office through death, absence, resignation, or from any other cause.

14. The Committee shall hold regular meetings to consult, and when considered advisable to take action, on matters

affecting the well-being and interests of the congregations and societies on the roll of the Conference, as by directing attention, suggesting plans, organizing expressions of opinion, raising funds to carry out the foregoing objects, or summoning, if it deem it needful, a special meeting of the Conference.

15. At each Triennial Conference the Committee shall present to the members a full report of its proceedings and of the action which it has taken, for the approval or otherwise of the Conference. A copy of such report shall be forwarded ten days at least before the assembling of each Triennial Conference to every member whose name and address is then known to the Secretary. It shall state the general nature of any resolution (other than formal or usual business) which is to be proposed on behalf of the Committee at the approaching conference.

16. These Rules may be varied or repealed, or new Rules made, at any Triennial Conference by a resolution passed by a majority consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Unless such resolution is to be moved on behalf of the Committee, notice of the proposed alteration or addition must be sent to the Secretary twenty-eight days at least before the assembling of the Conference. In either case, notice of the resolution must be given in or with the report of the Committee. Notice of any other resolution proposed to be moved at the Business Meeting must reach the Secretary two days at least before the assembling of each Conference.

NOTE.—The following Resolution, adopted at Oxford in 1906, though not embodied in the Rules, is important :—

‘That the Congregations on the Roll be urgently requested to make an annual contribution towards meeting the ordinary expenses of the Conference.’

ROLL OF THE CHURCHES

Grouped under District Associations and Provincial Assemblies.

Many Churches will be found under more than one Association or Provincial Assembly.

ENGLAND

1. *East Cheshire Christian Union* :—

Allostock
Ashton-under-Lyne
Boston Mills
Buxton
Congleton
Crewe
Dean Row
Denton
Dukinfield
Gee Cross
Glossop
Hyde—Flowery Field
Knutsford
Macclesfield
Mossley
Mottram
Nantwich
Stalybridge
Stockport
Styal

2. *Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches* :—

Bedfield
Braintree
Bury St. Edmunds
Diss
Filby
Framlingham
Gt. Yarmouth
Hapton
Ipswich
King's Lynn
Long Sutton
Norwich

3. *Liverpool District Missionary Association* :—

Birkenhead
Bootle
Chester
Croft
Garston
Gateacre
Liscard
Liverpool—
Ancient Chapel of Toxteth
Hope Street
Ullet Road
*Bond Street
*Hamilton Road
*Mill Street
St. Helens
Southport
Warrington
West Kirby

4. *London District Unitarian Society* :—

Acton
Bermondsey
Brixton
Child's Hill
Deptford
Essex Church
Finchley
Forest Gate
Hackney
Hampstead
Highgate
Islington
Kentish Town

* Domestic Missions.

Kilburn
 Lewisham
 Little Portland Street
 (University Hall)

Mansford Street
 Peckham
 Stamford Street
 Stepney Green
 Stoke Newington
 Stratford
 Wandsworth
 Wood Green
 Woolwich

*Bell Street
 *George's Row
 *Limehouse
 *Rhyl Street

5. *Manchester District Association of
 Presbyterian and Unitarian
 Churches :—*

Altrincham
 Hale
 Manchester—
 Blackley
 Bradford
 Broughton
 Chorlton-cum-Hardy
 Cross Street
 Failsworth
 Gorton
 Longsight
 Lower Mosley Street Sunday
 School
 Moss Side
 Oldham Road
 Pendleton
 Platt
 Sale
 Upper Brook Street
 Urmston
 *Hulme Mission
 *Willert Street
 Middleton

Monton
 Oldham
 Swinton

6. *Midland Christian Union of Pres-
 byterian, Unitarian and other
 Non-Subscribing Churches*

Atherstone
 Banbury
 Birmingham—
 Church of Messiah
 Newhall Hill
 Old Meeting
 Small Heath
 *Fazeley Street
 *Hurst Street

Coseley
 Coventry
 Cradley
 Dudley
 Evesham
 Kidderminster
 Kingswood
 Lye
 Oldbury
 Shrewsbury
 Stourbridge
 Tamworth
 Walsall
 Warwick
 West Bromwich
 Whitchurch
 Wolverhampton

7. *North and East Lancashire Unit-
 arian Mission :—*

Accrington
 Ainsworth
 Ansdell
 Astley
 Blackburn
 Blackpool—
 Dickson Road
 South Shore

* Domestic Mission.

Bolton—
 Bank Street
 Halliwell Road
 Unity Church
 Burnley
 Bury—
 Bank Street
 Chesham
 Chorley
 Chowbent
 Colne
 Heywood
 Hindley
 Horwich
 Leigh
 Newchurch
 Padiham
 Park Lane
 Preston
 Rawtenstall
 Rivington
 Rochdale
 Stand
 Todmorden
 Walmsley

Hinckley
 Ilkeston
 Leicester—
 Great Meeting
 Narborough Road
 Lincoln
 Loughborough
 Mansfield
 Newark
 Northampton
 Nottingham—
 Christ Church
 High Pavement

10. *Northumberland and Durham
 Unitarian Association :—*

Barnard Castle
 Carlisle
 Choppington
 Darlington
 Gateshead
 Middlesbrough
 Newcastle-on-Tyne
 South Shields
 Sunderland

8. *North Lancashire and Westmor-
 land Unitarian Association :*

Ansdell
 Blackpool—
 Dickson Road
 South Shore
 Chorley
 Kendal
 Lancaster
 Preston

11. *Sheffield and District Associa-
 tion of Unitarian, Free
 Christian and Free Con-
 gregational Churches :—*

Bolton-on-Dearne
 Bradwell
 Great Hucklow
 Rotherham
 Sheffield—
 Attercliffe
 Upper Chapel
 Upperthorpe
 Stannington

9. *North Midland Presbyterian and
 Unitarian Association :—*

Bedford
 Belper
 Boston
 Chesterfield
 Derby
 Gainsborough

12. *Southern Unitarian Associa-
 tion :—*

Bournemouth
 Chichester

* Domestic Missions.

Newport, Isle of Wight
 Poole
 Portsmouth—
 High Street
 St. Thomas's Street
 Ringwood
 Southampton
 Wareham

13. *Western Union of Unitarian and
 Free Christian Churches :—*

Bath
 Bridgwater
 Bridport
 Bristol—
 Lewin's Mead
 *Montague Street
 Cheltenham
 Cirencester
 Clifton
 Colyton
 Crediton
 Crewkerne
 Cullompton
 Devonport
 Exeter
 Frenchay
 Gloucester
 Ilminster
 Moretonhampstead
 Newton Abbot
 Plymouth
 Rushall
 Shepton Mallet
 Sidmouth
 Taunton
 Tavistock
 Torquay
 Trowbridge

14. *Yorkshire Unitarian Union :—*

Bradford—
 Chapel Lane
 Broadway Avenue
 Dewsbury

Elland
 Halifax
 Huddersfield
 Hull
 Idle
 Leeds—
 Holbeck
 Hunslet
 Mill Hill

Lydgate
 Malton
 Pepperhill
 Pudsey
 Scarborough
 Selby
 Wakefield
 Whitby
 York

15. *Provincial Assembly of Lanca-
 shire and Cheshire :—*

Accrington
 Ainsworth
 Altrincham
 Ashton-under-Lyne
 Astley
 Birkenhead
 Blackley
 Blackpool—Dickson Road
 Bolton—
 Bank Street
 Unity Church
 Halliwell Road
 Bootle
 Burnley
 Bury—
 Bank Street
 Chesham
 Chester
 Chorley
 Chorlton-cum-Hardy
 Chowbent
 Colne
 Congleton
 Crewe

* Domestic Mission

Croft
 Dean Row and Styal
 Denton
 Dob Lane
 Dukinfield
 Flowery Field
 Gateacre
 Gee Cross
 Glossop
 Gorton
 Hale
 Heywood
 Hindley
 Horwich
 Kendal
 Knutsford
 Lancaster
 Leigh
 Liscard
 Liverpool—
 Ancient Chapel of Toxteth
 Hope Street
 Ullet Road
 Macclesfield
 Manchester—
 Bradford
 Cross Street
 Longsight
 Moss Side
 Oldham Road
 Pendleton
 Platt
 Upper Brook Street
 Middleton
 Monton
 Mossley
 Mottram
 Nantwich
 Newchurch
 Oldham
 Padiham
 Park Lane
 Preston
 Rawtenstall
 Rivington

Rochdale
 Sale
 Southport
 Stalybridge
 Stand
 Stockport
 Swinton
 Todmorden
 Walmsley
 Warrington

16. *Provincial Assembly of London and the South Eastern Counties :—*

Acton
 *Bell Street, London
 Bermondsey
 Bessels Green
 Billingshurst
 Blackfriars and Stamford St.,
 London
 Brighton
 Brixton
 Chatham
 Chelmsford
 Child's Hill
 Deal
 Deptford
 Ditchling
 Dover
 Finchley
 Forest Gate
 *George's Row, London
 Godalming
 Guildford
 Hackney
 Halstead
 Hampstead
 Hastings
 Highgate
 Horsham
 Islington
 Kensington
 Kentish Town
 Kilburn

Lewes
 Lewisham
 Limehouse
 Little Portland Street, London
 Mansford Street, London
 Maidstone
 Newbury
 Northiam
 Peckham
 Reading
 * Rhyl Street, London
 Richmond
 Saffron Walden
 Southend
 Stepney Green
 Stoke Newington
 Stratford
 Tenterden

Tunbridge Wells
 Walthamstow
 Wandsworth
 Wood Green
 Woolwich

17. *The following are not included
 in any District Association
 or Provincial Assembly:—*

Croydon—
 Wellesley Road
 *Dennett Hall
 Doncaster
 Flagg
 Kirkstead
 Newcastle-under-Lyme
 Oxford
 Stockton

WALES

18. *S. Wales Unitarian Association:*

Aberdare—Old Meeting
 Alltyplaca
 Caeronen
 Capel y Bryn
 Capel y Fadfa
 Capel y Groes
 Cefn Coed
 Ciliau
 Clydach Vale
 Cribin
 Cwmbach
 Dowlais
 Gellionen
 Lampeter
 Llandyssul
 Llwynrhydowen
 Pantdefaid

Panteg
 Pentre
 Rhydygwin
 Sychbant
 Trebanos

19. *S.E. Wales Unitarian Society:*

Aberdare—Highland Place
 Aberystwyth
 Bridgend
 Cardiff
 Carmarthen
 Merthyr Tydfil
 Nottage
 Pontypridd
 Swansea
 Wick

SCOTLAND

20. *Scottish Unitarian Association:*

Aberdeen
 Dundee
 Edinburgh

Glasgow—
 Ross Street
 St. Vincent Street
 Kirkcaldy

* Domestic Mission.

IRELAND

Presbytery of Antrim :

Antrim
 Ballyclare
 Belfast—
 First
 York Street
 Carrickfergus
 Clough
 Downpatrick
 Greyabbey
 Holywood
 Larne
 Newtownards

Dunmurry
 Glenarm
 Killinchy
 Moira
 Newry
 Rademon
 Raloo
 Templepatrick
 Warrenpoint

22. *Remonstrant Synod of Ulster :*

Ballee
 Ballycarry
 Ballyhemlin
 Ballymoney
 Banbridge
 Cairncastle
 Comber
 Crumlin
 Dromore

23. *Synod of Munster :*

Clonmel
 Cork
 Dublin

24. *Churches not connected with any
Presbytery :—*

Belfast—
 All Souls
 Mountpottinger
 *Stanhope Street
 Moneyrea
 Ravara

Member of the Conference under Rule 2 (h)—

Rev. Dr. John Hunter, Glasgow.

Domestic Mission

